THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

The more confidence I have in the Bible, the clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it.

The Reliability of the Bible

A study series affirmation:

"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word;*
The more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."

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By Larry Hughes
904/755-8556

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Lesson1: It's Tough to Make Predictions
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

Let's assume that there's a God and let's assume that He would like to communicate with us. If you wanted this communication to be permanent and unchanging, the best way to do that would be to ***write it down***.

And if God wanted to show us that his written word was not from the mind of man He might put information in his communication to prove that. God uses fulfilled prophecy to show us that He has spoken. Below are some Scriptures to look up and read.

Deuteronomy 18:21-22 *How shall we know … a prophecy is from the Lord?*
Jeremiah 28:1-14 *Only when his predictions come true can we know*
Ezekiel 33:32-33 *when all these terrible things happen… then you will know*
Isaiah 41:21-24 *tell us what the future holds… then we will know you are gods*
Isaiah 46:10 ***Only I can tell you the future before it even happens***. *Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.*
Only the Bible has true prophecies. But, what about prophecies in other books?

Yogisms This former Yankee baseball player had some unique insights
"It ain't over 'til it's over."
"It's déjà vu all over again."
"It's tough to make predictions*, especially about the future."*

Nostradamus
From the internet (9/11–Nostradamus Weebly.com) (Nostradamus' quatrain Century 10:72)
In the year 2000 plus nine months / Two ***steel*** *birds will fall from the sky on the Metropolis / The sky will burn at forty-five degrees latitude / Fire approaches the great new city*.
This prophecy convinced millions that Nostradamus had predicted the future, not only about 9/11, but also the JFK assassination, and World War II. Only a few problems:
Nostradamus died in 1566, Steel was invented in1854. This was a simple internet hoax that went viral.

And this is what 10:72 actual says:
The year thousand nine hundred ninety nine seven months / Of heaven shall come a great King redeemer / To bring to life again the great King of Angolmois. / Before after Mars reigns by good luck
"It's tough to make predictions"

Mormons - Joseph Smith On Dec 1831, LDS purchased 63 acres in Missouri, including the Temple Lot. During the purchase, Smith was to reveal: "*The temple shall be reared in this generation, for verily this generation shall not pass away until an house shalt be built unto the Lord and a cloud shall rest upon it.*" But, no temple as ever been built at this location. Smith's prediction that a temple would be reared "*in this generation*" is a failed prophecy. As a matter of fact, **there are zero fulfilled prophecies in the Book of Mormon** or in their Doctrines and Covenants.
"It's tough to make predictions"

Jehovah Witnesses … After predicting the return of Jesus no less than 6 times from 1890 till 1970 they now have a rule … NO MORE PREDICTIONS.

First: *The end had not come in 1874, as the Adventists had predicted. However, Barbour explained that Matthew 24:27 meant Jesus' invisible presence commenced in 1874, the rapture would be 1878, and the end of the world was to occur in 1914. (See Watch Tower, 1906 July 15 for a detailed account.)*

Last: 1986 *"Yet one more event will come as an unmistakable signal that world destruction is imminent. Of this the apostle Paul wrote: "Jehovah's day is coming exactly as a thief in the night. Whenever it is that they are saying: 'Peace and security!' then sudden destruction is to be instantly upon them . . . and they will by no means escape."*
Their failure rates on prophecies are 100%
"It's tough to make predictions"

Quran … has no prophecies.
"It's tough to make predictions"

Buddhism … has no prophecies
"It's tough to make predictions"

The Bible stands alone in fulfilled prophecies. It has been estimated that 25% of the Bible is prophetic. God is proving His Word.

In the coming lesson we will look in detail at three world prophecies and three Messianic prophecies in the Bible that have been fulfilled in amazing detail.
We will be presented with a lot of evidence about the veracity of the Bible. The purpose is twofold. First, is to increase your faith in the reliability of the Bible and the second, is to give you ammunition in refuting skeptics when you are witnessing.

Now, this is not to say that without the evidence you have no reason to believe the Bible. This is far from the truth. As you read the Bible you know God is speaking to you. You can have the witness of the Holy Spirit. Philosopher and theologian, Alvin Plantaga, calls this a "***Properly Basic Belief***".

A properly basic belief is a RATIONAL belief you hold so basic to your worldview that you don't need evidence to hold on to its truth. It would take overwhelming evidence to defeat this type of belief. A common example of a properly basic belief is Descartes statement … "*I think therefore I am*". He held the belief, like most of us do, that we live in reality.
So another benefit in this teaching is to "defeat the defeater". The defeater is the supposed evidence that would conflict with a properly basic belief in the truth of the Word of God.

One verse to remember …

Isaiah 46:10 God Says … "***Only I can tell you the future before it even happens.*** *Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish."*

For Additional Information: YouTube "*Alvin Plantiga, Properly Basic Beliefs part 1*"

Lesson 2: Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Ezekiel – The fall of Tyre
"The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."

Ezekiel writes this prophecy about the fall of the city of Tyre about 590bc, hundreds of years before it came to pass. Tyre was one of the oldest and best fortified cities of ancient times. They were rightfully confident that they could withstand any siege, as they had done for centuries. But, like Ezekiel states, enemies will attack like ocean waves, Eventually Alexander the Great finishes siege that Nebuchadnezzar started. This prophecy is quite easy to match up to history.

Ezekiel 26:1 *Another message came to me from the Lord on the first day of the month, in the eleventh year (after King Jehoiachin was taken away to captivity).*
2 "Son of dust, Tyre has rejoiced over the fall of Jerusalem, saying, 'Ha! She who controlled the lucrative north-south trade routes along the coast and along the course of the Jordan River has been broken, and I have fallen heir! Because she has been laid waste, I shall become wealthy!'"
3 Therefore the Lord God says: "I stand against you, Tyre, ***and I will bring nations against you like ocean waves****."*

605 BC Nebuchadnezzar II started a 13 year military campaign
539 BC Persian king Cyrus the Great conquered the city
332 BC Alexander started the Siege of Tyre despite its reputation as being impregnable.
History of Tyre, Lebanon - Wikipedia

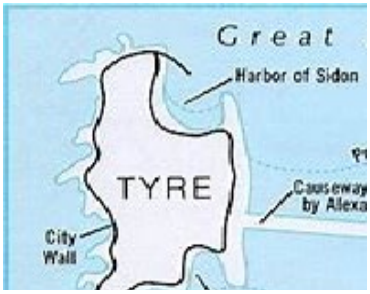
History shows many waves of attacking nations

4 They will ***destroy the walls of Tyre and tear down her towers.*** *I will* ***scrape away her soil and make her a bare rock!*** *5 Her island shall become uninhabited, a place for fishermen to spread their nets, for I have spoken it," says the Lord God. "Tyre shall become the* ***prey of many nations,*** *6 and her mainland city shall perish by the sword. Then they shall know I am the Lord."*
*7 For the Lord God says: "****I will bring Nebuchadnezzar****, king of Babylon—the king of kings from the north—against Tyre with a great army and cavalry and chariots. 8* ***First he will destroy your suburbs****; then he will attack your mainland city by building a siege wall and raising a roof of shields against it. 9 He will set up battering rams against your walls and with sledgehammers demolish your forts. 10 The hoofs of his cavalry will choke the city with dust, and your walls will shake as the horses gallop through your broken gates, pulling chariots behind them. 11 Horsemen will occupy every street in the city; they will butcher your people, and your famous, huge pillars will topple.*

Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Ezekiel – The fall of Tyre

12 "They will plunder all your riches and merchandise and break down your walls. ***They will destroy your lovely homes and dump your stones and timber and even your dust into the sea.***

Angered by this rejection and the city's loyalty to Darius, Alexander started the Siege of Tyre despite its reputation as being impregnable. However, the Macedonian conqueror succeeded after seven months by demolishing the old city on the mainland and using its stones to construct a causeway to the island
History of Tyre, Lebanon - Wikipedia



13 I will stop the music of your songs. No more will there be the sound of harps among you. 14 ***I will make your island a bare rock, a place for fishermen to spread their nets.*** *You will never be rebuilt, for I, the Lord, have spoken it." So says the Lord.*

In 1697, the English scholar Henry Maundrell visited Tyre and found only a "few" inhabitants, who mainly subsisted upon ***fishing.***
History of Tyre, Lebanon - Wikipedia

Note the picture of fishermen in the old city of Tyre, spreading their nets to dry on the rocks.

One verse to remember …

Ezekiel 26: *14* ***I will make your island a bare rock, a place for fishermen to spread their nets.***

Lesson 3: Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Ezekiel – The Restoration of Israel
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

In Ezekiel's time – Israel would have 2 restorations to their land. The first would be after 70 years of captivity in Babylon. The second, at some future time, they would be restored from many nations. Jeremiah speaks of the first restoration.

Jeremiah 24:5-6 – **The first restoration**
"Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the captives of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the ***Chaldeans****. For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them up and not overthrow them, and I will plant them and not pluck them up.*

Isaiah and Ezekiel speak of the second restoration. It will be different from the first one in that instead of coming back from one land, they will have been scattered from the four corners of the earth. In other words, the will return from many nations.

Isaiah 11:11-12 – **The second restoration**
Then it will happen on that day that the Lord
Will again ***recover the second time*** *with His hand*
The remnant of His people, who will remain,
From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath,
And from the islands of the sea.
And He will lift up a standard for the nations
And assemble the banished ones of Israel,
And will gather the dispersed of Judah
From the four corners of the earth*.*

Ezekiel 36:24-26
For I will take you from the nations, gather you ***from all the lands*** *and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

Lesson 3: Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Ezekiel – The Restoration of Israel

Ezekiel 37:7-8 **The valley of dry bones**
God shows Ezekiel a valley full of old dry bones and ask him "*Can the bones can live again?" 7So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.*

Jerusalem fell to the Romans in 70 AD. They spent the next 1900 years in every country on the earth except their own. It is a miracle that the Jews were able to keep their religion and traditions in tack for all those years. Following the holocaust of WWII, the United Nations declared that a portion of their promised land would be theirs to control. May 6th, 1948 was their independence day. Prior to 1948, it would be easy to look at the dry bones passage and try to spiritualize it or say it is just an analogy. After all, it had been over 1900 years. But many teachers continued from holding the view that God would fulfill this prophecy in detail. One such preacher is Charles Spurgeon. He had every confidence the Bible was reliable.

Spurgeon, 1864
He first mentions several secondary interpretations.
1. The church – in need of restoration
2. Personal distress and comfort – our personal restoration with God
3. Sinners revival – The lost would need revival
Spurgeon points out that all these are secondary, as Ezekiel was clearly prophesying to his people, the Jews. He clearly states that the primary meaning is that "*the Jews will be restored politically to their own Land and their own nationality.*"

It is also interesting to consider the sinews, flesh, skin, and breath and how it relates to Israel.
Sinews … a scattered nation held together by the Torah and traditions.
Flesh … May 6th, 1948 Israel becomes a nation, vulnerable as flesh without skin
Skin … protected as Israel is a formidable military now. By consensus they have the best air force in the world.
Breath … spiritual life … This part of the prophecy is yet to come. So look forward to a spiritual revival for the nation of Israel.

One verse to remember …

Ezekiel 36:*34* ***For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land..***

Lesson 4: Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Daniel 11– The Persian and Greek Kings
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

The history of the Middle East seems to have always been in turmoil. Daniel was in captivity in Babylon when God spoke to him about the following world events. He was speaking from the time of Darius and predicted 3 more Persian kings would arise, then a forth one arises that uses his riches to come against Greece. History confirms Daniels prophecy.

Daniel 11:1 *Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.) 2And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.*

- *559–530 BC Cyrus the Great*
- *423–405 BC* ***Darius II***
- *405–358 BC Artaxerxes II*
- *358–338 BC Artaxerxes III*
- *338–336 BC Arses*
- *336–330 BC* ***Darius III***

Darius III ... In 334 BC, Alexander the Great began his invasion of the Persian Empire and subsequently defeated the Persians in several battles before looting and destroying their capital, Persepolis, by fire in 330 BC
Wikipedia … Kings of Persia

Alexander the Great
Daniel is then told by God that when Greece is stirred up, a great king will arise and rule. Alexander, a great king, did exactly that.
Daniel 11:3 *Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.*

By the age of 30, he (Alexander) *had created one of the largest empires in history, stretching from Greece to northwestern India. He was undefeated in battle and is widely considered to be one of histories greatest and most successful military commanders.*
Wikipedia … Alexander the Great

Lesson 4: Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Daniel 11– The Persian and Greek Kings

Alexander conquered the known world and then died at a young age. He had sons and one might think that he would pass his empire to one of his posterity. But his kingdom was divided among his **4 strongest generals.** The northern kingdom, Ptolemaic, and the southern kingdom, Seleucid fought each other over and over the centuries until they both fell to Rome. The last queen of the Ptolemy's kingdom in Egypt was a name you know … Cleopatra.

Daniel 11:4 *And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the **four winds of heaven**, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.*

Before his death, someone asked Alexander on who would be his designated successor should he die, he responded: "To the strongest one."

*Kingdoms of the Diadochi in 301 BC: the **Ptolemaic** Kingdom, the **Seleucid** Empire, Kingdom of **Lysimachus**, and Kingdom of **Macedon**.*
Wikipedia … Alexander the Great

One verse to remember …

Daniel 11:4 *And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.*

Lesson 5: Messianic Fulfilled Prophecy from Genesis 22 – Abraham & Isaac
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

There are several books mentioned in the Bible that are not scripture. "The Annuls of Kings" and the "Book of Jashar". While they may contain certain useful history, God did not include them in His Bible. There are Jewish commentaries such as the Talmud and the Midrash that while not scripture it can be useful for historical background. 2 Samuel makes mention of Jasher.

2nd Samuel 1:17 *Then David composed a funeral song for Saul and Jonathan, 18 and he commanded that it be taught to the people of Judah. It is known as the Song of the Bow, and it is recorded in* ***The Book of Jashar****.*

This book indicates that Abram knew and served Noah which might explain why when God spoke to Abram to leave his country, he did. Maybe he had learned to hear the voice of God while serving Noah.
Book of Jasher 9:5 *And when Abram … went to Noah and his son Shem, and he remained with them to learn the instruction of the Lord and his ways, and no man knew where Abram was, and Abram served Noah and Shem his son for a long time. And Abram was in Noah's house thirty-nine years, and Abram knew the Lord …*

Adam knew full well of God's **provision** and spent years with Methuselah. Methuselah spent years with Noah. Noah knew full well of God's **provision** and spent years with Abraham. And is Genesis 22, Abraham is about to learn a lesson in God's **provision**.

The Midrash is an ancient commentary on part of the Hebrew Scriptures. One of the Midrash traditions: In one of these traditions, when Isaac returns from the Akedah, Sarah asks him where he has been. He replies that his father took him on a journey and was about to kill him when an angel interceded. On hearing Isaac's answer, Sarah cries out six times, cries which correspond to the shofar sounds, and then she dies (Leviticus Rabbah 20:2).

Genesis 23 records her death and her age of 127 and since Isaac was born when she was about 90 … that may make Isaac in his 30s

The Talmud is a teaching and expansion of the Torah – the Law. Talmud 55:7 states that *THE LAND OF MORIAH is Jerusalem*. We also find in 2 Chronicles 3:1 "*To build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem in Mount Moriah*".

Genesis 22: *1Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called.*
"Yes," he replied. "Here I am."
Abraham was now used to hearing the voice of God. In times past he didn't always follow God exactly. He was told to leave all family and go to a land God would show him. Instead of leaving all family he took his nephew Lot. God told him that he would have a son and instead of waiting for Gods timing he took matters into his own hands and had Ishmael with Hagar. In quickly answering "Here I am" he has again the opportunity to obey completely

Lesson 5: Messianic Fulfilled Prophecy from Genesis 22 – Abraham & Isaac

2 *"Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."* Why is Isaac called his only son when Ishmael was born first? Hebrews 11, the Heroes of Faith chapter can be a help. Hebrews 11:17… *Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac,* The term "only son" is the Greek word Monogene –mono meaning one or unique and gene for offspring. This term is also used of Jesus in John 3:16 as the "*only begotten son*". And we understand that Jesus was not begotten in the sense he was born or created, for it is clear that Jesus was in the beginning. It is understood that John 3:16 means that Jesus is the one and only and hold a unique position with His Father. As such, Isaac is pictured as a type of Jesus.

3 *The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac.* Remember that Jesus came to Jerusalem riding on a donkey. (Mat. 21:5)

Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. 4 *On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.* In a sense Isaac was a good as dead the moment they set out. Three days later Isaac is "resurrected". Hebrews 11 states ... "*And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead."* Jesus was dead three days then back from the dead .

5 *"Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back."* Abraham was telling the truth because *Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again* (Hebrews 11)

6 *So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together,* Isaac carried the wood on his shoulders and Jesus carried the cross on His. (John 19:17)

7 *Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?"*
"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.
"We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"
8 *"God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.* Note that "will provide" speaks of a future provision. The fulfillment would wait 1500 years before Jesus becomes the "*Lamb of God that takes away the son of the world*."(John 1:29)

9 *When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood.* Abraham was old, Isaac was young and strong, so Isaac had to willingly lie down on the alter.

Lesson 5: Messianic Fulfilled Prophecy from Genesis 22 – Abraham & Isaac

10And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. 11At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"
"Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"
12"Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son."
13Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." Hundreds of years later the Jews understood that the provision and sacrifice was still in the future. This is the only passage in the Bible where "Jehovah Jireh" is used, indicating that there is **only one provision** and one sacrifice that can be made for sin. We often think that God, our provider give us anything we want. But, like a good father, he gives us the thing we need the very most.

One verse to remember …

Genesis 22:14 Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

Lesson 6: Messianic Fulfilled Prophecy from Psalms 22 – A Picture of Crucifixion
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

A bit of Trivia:
1 How many Psalms are there?
2 How many did David write?
3 Was Psalm 22 written from one of many of David's exploits or character?
4. If it is a poem; why doesn't rhyme? Notice examples of parallelism in verses *(2, 4-5, 21)*

Just a few similarities between Psalm 22 and Jesus

	Psalms 22	**NT Reference**
1	*My God, My God, why have you abandoned me* (verse 1)	Mark 15:34 *Third hour, "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me."*
2	*Others trusted you and You rescued them* (2-5)	Mat. 27:43 *He Trusted in God, so let God rescue Him.*
3	*He is a worm* (6)	A *Tola'ath* (see below)
4	*He was scorned and despised* (7-8)	Mt 27:39-40 *And the people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads*
5	*He has always been faithful to God* (9-10)	2Cor 5:21 (not David) *Christ who never sinned*
6	*Enemies surround him like bulls* (powerful) (12-13)	Matthew 27:41 *Leading priests, …teachers…, and the elders also mocked him*
7	*He is dehydrated from blood loss* (15)	John 19:28 *to fulfill scripture he said, "I am thirsty."*
8	*They pierced His hands and feet* (16)	John 19:18 *They nailed him on the cross*
9	*His bones are out of joint* (14,17)	A result of crucifixion
10	*He is brought to death* (15)	John 19:33 *They came to Jesus, they saw he was already dead.*
11	*He is publicly executed* (16)	Matthew 27:39-*43 people passing by…, priests…, teachers…, elders…, and revolutionaries*.
12	*His clothes are taken and gambled for* (18)	John 19:24 *they threw dice for my clothing*
13	*Non-Jews will acknowledge the LORD (27)*	Even Romans that crucified Jesus eventually bowed their knee to Jesus
14	*His righteous acts will be told to those yet unborn (31)*	Acts 2:39 *This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away*

In that old rugged cross,
Stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see.

For 'twas on that old cross,
Jesus suffered and died.
To pardon and sanctify me

One verse to remember …

Psalm 22:16 … *They pierced my hands and my feet.*

For Additional Information: YouTube "*Calvary Chapel Onterio Psalm 22*"

Lesson 7: Messianic Fulfilled Prophecy from Isaiah 53 – The Forbidden Chapter
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

Isaiah 52:13 thru 53:12
This passage is sometimes called the forbidden chapter of the Hebrew Bible because it is NEVER, EVER read in ANY synagogue. This is because this passage so clearly points to Jesus as Messiah. It is also called the "heart of the Bible" because Gods justice and mercy are so clearly defined. It may be best known to us as the "Suffering Servant" passage.
It was written about 700bc. Some critics used to try to late date it after Jesus because there is no denying its prophetic significance, and because of such advanced theological concepts as substitutionary atonement and the resurrection. Many of Paul's advanced concepts in Romans can be found in Isaiah.

All of the gospels make reference to this passage. It is written in poetic form. (Parallelism). I find it interesting that this type of poetry is unusual in that it can be translated into various languages and still retain the parallel construct. Translate rhyming or pentameter poetry and you would lose the poetry. How smart is God. Verses 4 and 5 are good examples of Parallelism.

Recently, some rabbis have incorrectly stated that it is not about one person but about the nation of Israel as a whole in a vain attempt to hide the truth. It is clearly a passage about what one person does for the Jews and the world. It is about the messiah who will come. All ancient rabbis considered this true. So does the Talmud.

So let's read it first then discuss it.
52:13See, my servant will prosper; he will be highly exalted.
A summary of the entire passage … from service to exaltation (Philippians 2:6-11)
*14But many were amazed when they saw him. **His face was so disfigured** he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man.*
Caiaphas – *they spit in Jesus' face and beaten him with their fists.* (Mathew 26:57)
Pilate – *They slapped Him across the face* (John 19:3)
*15And he will **startle** many nations. Kings will stand speechless in his presence. For they will see what they had not been told; they will understand what they had not heard about.*
Jesus' ministry *startled the disciples with His words (Mark 10:24)*
*53:1Who has **believed** our message? To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm?*
This is central message – Believing. Some compare this with Romans.
*2My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root **dry ground**. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him.*
The dry ground may refer to the 400 years, between Malachi and John the Baptist, that God did not speak through his prophets.
3He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.
Most of the Jews missed their Messiah.
*4Yet it was our **weaknesses** he **carried**; it was our **sorrows** that **weighed him down**. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!*
Caused by SIN. What is your most urgent need? Money, job, car …

Lesson 7: Messianic Fulfilled Prophecy from Isaiah 53 – The Forbidden Chapter

5But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.
*He was **beaten** so we could be **whole**. He was **whipped** so we could be **healed**.*
We have peace not just a ceasefire as in Korea. This healing is primarily sin issue.
6All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own.
Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.
Every man did what was right in his own eyes.
7He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word.
He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.
And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.
Jesus before Caiaphas did not defend himself. Build temple in 3 days
8Unjustly condemned, he was led away.
No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream.
But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people.
His condemnation was a judicial sentence … by the Jews, the Romans, and God. God's justice for our sin was satisfied with Jesus' death.
9He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone.
But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.
Jesus died with 2 thieves, but buried in Joseph of Arimathea's grave
10But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and cause him grief.
Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants.
He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands.
Who is responsible for killing Jesus? Some say the Jews, some say Romans, I might say me, but this indicates it is God.
11When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied.
And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible
for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.
Justification. He who knew no sin to become sin for us
12I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death.
He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.
He bore the sin of many and then is exalted. From service to exaltation again.

Who will believe????

One verse to remember …

Isaiah 53:5 *But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.*
*He was **beaten** so we could be **whole**. He was **whipped** so we could be **healed**.*

Lesson 8: The Tanakh Canon and the Apocrypha

"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

The Biblical canon is the collection of books that comprise the sacred scriptures or Bibles of Jews and Christians. (Oxford dictionary Feb 2021)

Whose list is it? … Mans or God's. If I assume that the Canon is just man's list, then the Canon began when man created the list. If I assume that the Canon is God's inspired books, then the Canon began to exist when the first book was written.

I have thousands of Word docs. Every teaching I have done in the half century is stored in my "canon". When I completed my first doc, my canon consisted of one book. It is my list of docs compared to all of the docs in the world. And I am permitted to create my canon because I wrote each word. In the same way, God has his canon of His books.

First of all from a Jewish perspective they would never call it the Old Testament they call it the TANAKH, which is an acronym for the three sections of the Hebrew Bible…

Torah … the laws of Moses
Nevi'im … the prophets
Ketuvim … the writings

Principles to consider if a book is from God …

All of the books in the Tanakh contain most of the following. Books not in the Tanakh do not contain most of the following principles.

1. It may have Prophecy. Scripture may have short term prophecy to prove to contemporary Israel that it is the word of the LORD. Deut. 18:21 *"But you may wonder, 'How will we know whether or not a prophecy is from the LORD?' If the prophet speaks in the LORD's name but his prediction does not happen or come true, you will know that the LORD did not give that message.* It may also contain a long term prophecy to prove to future believers that indeed the LORD has spoken.

2. The later books never contradicts the former

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 *"Suppose there are prophets among you or those who dream dreams about the future, and they promise you signs or miracles, 2 and the predicted signs or miracles occur. If they then say, 'Come, let us worship other gods'—gods you have not known before— 3**do not listen to them.***

Isaiah 8:20 *Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict His word are completely in the dark.*

3. They are accepted by the people

Exodus 24:7 *Then he* (Moses) *took the Book of the Covenant and read it aloud to the people. Again they all responded, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded. We will obey."*

If a book was considered a covenant book, it would be placed in the Temple.

2nd Kings 23:2 *…the king* (Josiah) *read to them the entire Book of the Covenant that had been found in the LORD's Temple.*

Lesson 8: The Tanakh Canon and the Apocrypha

Principles to consider if a book is from God …

4. They make claims that they are speaking/writing God's word.

Hosea 4:1 *Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel*

1st Kings 12:24 *that this is what the LORD says:*

5. The Jews accepted the books.

We may not know the history of why every book is included, but maybe it is enough to believe that God entrusted the writing of His word to Israel.

Romans 3:*1 Then what's the advantage of being a Jew? Is there any value in the ceremony of circumcision? 2Yes, there are great benefits! First of all, the Jews were entrusted with the whole revelation of God.*

New Testament Affirmations…

The N.T. quotes the Tanakh 300 times. It quotes the apocrypha 0 times. All but 5 of the Tanakh books are quoted in the NT. Jesus uses such phrases as "Have you not read" or "It is written" when referring to Tanakh.

Historical Affirmations…

Josephus states that after Artaxerses (Malachi) there were no more prophetic books. For four hundred years God was silent. The Tanakh was finished. Jesus also affirmed the same… Matthew 23:35 "*On you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the righteous blood of Able to the blood of Zechariah*" …. From Genesis to the Minor Prophets. The Tanakh was finished.

Josephus writes "*For we have not an innumerable multitude of books among us, disagreeing from and contradicting one another [as the Greeks have], but only twenty-two books, which contain all the records of all the past times; which are justly believed to be divine; and of them five belong to Moses, which contain his laws and the traditions of the origin of mankind till his death. ... The prophets, who were after Moses, wrote down what was done in their times in thirteen books. The remaining four books contain hymns to God, and precepts for the conduct of human life*." (Wikipedia; Josephus (37-100) renowned historian)

Wait! He just said 22 books not the 39 we are all familiar with: Here's why …

# of books	The Division	The books
5	Moses, the Law	Genesis to Deuteronomy
13	Prophets	Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra+Nehemiah, Isaiah, Jerimiah+Laminations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Minor Prophets (13=1)
4	Writings	Job, Psalms, Proverbs+Ecclesiastes, Song of Soloman
22	Total	The same 39 we have in our Bible

Lesson 8: The Tanakh Canon and the Apocrypha

What about the apocrypha?

Council of Trent, an anti-reformation council in the 1540s, was convened to refute the Protestants. They included the apocrypha which is in the Catholic Bible today. Apocrypha includes such heresies as purgatory, praying for the dead (2 Maccabeus 12:38-46), and giving alms and payment for sin. (Tobit 12:9) The Apocrypha also contains several historical errors, such as, Nebuchadnezzar being a Persian king, (Judith 1:1), instead of a truly Babylonian one.

So why accept it as Gods word? The catholic priests were one of the first to purchase the brand new Gutenberg press. They would put one on their wagons as they went from village to village. While it used to take the priest a long time to handwrite and indulgence, they could now print them out in minutes. An indulgence is a formal document from the church that proves you have forgiveness of sins since you paid for it. Protestants would say there is no scripture to back up such activities. So, the council added Tobit to the Bible. Now is does!

Even the books of the Apocrypha do not make claim to being the word of God. Or be prophetic. 1st Maccabeus 9:27 "*Since the time the prophets cease to appear*"

Pope Gregory the Great the 6th century wrote that the Apocrypha was not scripture.

Jerome translated Bible from Septuagint to Latin. Then spent considerable time learning Hebrew in a monastery in Bethlehem and translated from Hebrew to Latin in 405. He included the apocrypha. But he noted on each book, "***This is not Scripture***". He was the one that first used apocrypha, meaning "**hidden**". Some books you may not display, but you do not want lose them, so you just set them aside …. "Hide them away." (Wikipedia)

One verse to remember …

Exodus 24:7 *Then he* (Moses) *took the Book of the Covenant and read it aloud to the people. Again they all responded, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded. We will obey."*

Lesson 9: The New Testament Canon
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

If a Canon, the authoritative word from God, exists, it exists whether a man recognizes it or not. Prophecy has shown us that there is an authoritative word of God…a canon.
We've covered the Tanakh Canon and have shown how prophecy proves it. Now we'll discuss the New Testament and determine if we have the right books.

Principles to consider if a book is from God …

All of the books in the N.T. contain all of the following. Books not in the N.T. do not contain all of the following principles.

1. They claim to be scripture
2. They have apostolic authority
3. They are 1st century writing
4. They are accepted by believers

Many critics believe that we received the New Testament from the Council of Nicaea who weeded through a hundred different books and decided on the 27 that are in our New Testament. This is demonstrably and provably false.

We will begin at the time of the apostles in the first century. Slowly the 4 gospels and the letters were shared among the church. One may have had Paul's letters but not Peter's. Another may have had the gospel of Mark but not John. As the N.T. was shared it came together and was accepted. In a sense the gospels went viral.

Jesus was predicted and spoke for the Father
Jesus is a fulfillment of the Tanakh prophecy and the authoritative word of God for the New Testament. He's the one that brings the Tanakh and the New Testament together.

The TANAKH predicts a prophet greater than Moses … Deuteronomy 18:17-19 *what they have spoken is good. And I will raise up a prophet among them …*

Jesus spoke as the Father commanded … John 12:49 "*I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it.*"

Jesus spoke with God's authority … Matthew 28:18 "*all authority has been given to me in heaven and the earth*."

Jesus spoke the words of God … Hebrews 1:1 *Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. 2And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son.*

Lesson 9: The New Testament Canon

The Apostles were commissioned to speak Gods word

Jesus told His disciples to "*go into all the world and preach the gospel*". So each disciple spoke and wrote with the authority of God, through Jesus. The apostles put their most important thoughts and saying in writing for a permanent record for us. And they knew they were writing Scripture.

John 20:21 *as the Father has sent me, so I send you.*

Acts 10:39-43 *He commanded us to preach to the people.*

Peter makes it clear that the apostles speak with the same authority as the TANAKH prophets … 2nd Peter 3:*2 I want you to remember what the holy* ***prophets*** *said long ago and what our Lord and Savior commanded through your* ***apostles***

The apostles were equal to the prophets in stature. Eph 2:20 *we are his house, built on the foundation of the* ***apostles*** *and the* ***prophets****.*

The word came from Jesus, then to the apostles and was confirmed by signs and wonders… Hebrews 2:3 *So what makes us think we can escape if we ignore this great salvation that was first announced by the* ***Lord Jesus*** *himself and then delivered to us by* ***those who heard him*** *speak? 4And God confirmed the message by giving signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose.*

They knew they spoke for God … 1st Thessalonians 2:13-15 *Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as* ***the very word of God****—which, of course, it is.*

John makes the claim that only God can fulfill… John 20:31 *and these are written that you may* ***believe*** *and have eternal* ***life****.*

The gospels and epistles were read in church.

Blessed are those that READ and HEAR. Not everyone could read back in the day; so it was common to take the scriptures and read them aloud in church. This is the same way that the Tanakh was conveyed to the people.

Revelation 1:3 *God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.*

Colossians 4:16 *when this epistle is read among you…*

1st Thessalonians 5:27 *I command you in the name of the Lord that this epistle be read to all the brethren*

The N.T. and church fathers confirms each others writings

2nd Peter 3:16 ***Paul also wrote*** *to you with the wisdom God gave him— 16speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of* ***Scripture****.*

1st Clement 2:1-2 (75-90 AD, Bishop of Rome, to Corinth)… *the apostles received the gospel for us from the Lord Jesus Christ, sent from God. The Christ therefore is from God and the apostles from Christ.*

Lesson 9: The New Testament Canon

Onomastic Congruence
To help determine which books belong in the Bible, manuscript scholars can use what is known as "*onomastic congruence*".

To best explain this term consider what is wrong with the follow sentence found in a book about the old south supposedly written in 1815.
"Olivia and her sister Emma (2024) drove (1903) to Jacksonville (1822) Friday night to see one of the new motion picture (1887) shows."
There are many issues of incongruity in this sentence. First, Olivia and Emma are the most popular names in 2024, in the old south you might expect Dolly or Annabelle. Secondly, they could not have driven a car anywhere in 1815 since cars were not in the south until 1903. Next, Jacksonville was called Cowford until 1822. And finally, motion picture shows were invented in 1887. So only the names of people, places, and things that do match the times are known as "*onomastic congruence*".

So, why then are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John included in the New Testament Canon and books like the Gospel of Thomas and the gospel of Bartholomew are not.

Consider the disciples list from Mathew 10:2 *Here are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (also called Peter), then Andrew (Peter's brother), James (son of Zebedee), John (James's brother), 3Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew (the tax collector),James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, 4Simon (the zealot), Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).*
Notice that some of the names are "*qualified*" or have additional info; such as the Simons, one is also Peter, the other is the Zealot. This is because Peter was the most common name in Judea at the time of Jesus; while Philip has no qualifier because it is the 61st most common name.

Scholars have searched through the Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and other literature of the times and compiled this list of name commonality.
Qualified: 1. Peter; 3. Judas; 5. John; 9. Mathew; 11. James;
Non qualified: 39. Thaddeus; 50. Bartholomew; 61. Philip

Most of the "Lost" gospels contain many incongruities. Such as Jesus taking a boat to Nazareth (It is landlocked); or names that are most common in the 3rd century (long after the Disciples were dead; or just plain bizarre. Consider the Gospel of Thomas v114... *Simon Peter said to them: Let Mary go out from among us, for women are not worthy of the life. Jesus said: Look, I will lead her that I may make her male, in order that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every woman who makes herself male will enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

In conclusion, the 4 Gospels that are in your New Testament are the ONLY ones that should be in your Bible. The so called Lost, or Missing, or Banned books from the Bible are missing from some very valid reasons.

One verse to remember …

1st Thessalonians 2:13-15 *Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as* ***the very word of God****—which, of course, it is.*

Here is a bit more about the so called "lost" or "missing" Gospels.

There were many writings of Jesus in the second century as one group or another tried to appropriate Jesus for their own purposes. But the early church fathers, the leaders who had been taught by the disciples, consistently affirmed that 4 and only 4 books were to be considered God's Word. These are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. All other books were consider heritical and to be avoided. Here is an exact quote from **Irenaeus of Lyons** in *Against Heresies* (Book III, Chapter 11, Section 8): *"It is not possible that the Gospels can be either more or fewer in number than they are….the Church is the Gospel and the spirit of life; it is fitting that she should have* ***four pillars,*** *breathing out immortality on every side."*

Let's take a looks at a few of these lost gospels

1. Gospel of Thomas – Discovered in 1950's in Egypt. But this was known before because of the church fathers warnings.
Irenaeus linked the *Gospel of Thomas* to Gnostic groups like the Valentinians, dismissing it as a late fabrication:
Cyril of Jerusalem (4th century) "The Manichaeans also wrote a Gospel according to Thomas, which... corrupts the souls of the simple sort.". He warned believers not to read it, labeling it a tool of heresy.
Origen of Alexandria (3rd century) "The Gospel according to Thomas... is condemned as heretical"

2. Gospel of Barnabas – This was clearly written in the 14th century as it quotes from "Dante's Inferno", written in the early 1300's. The only early versions were in Italian and Spanish, no Greek texts have been found.

Others:
3. **Gospel of Mary** – only a few fragments, dated 2nd century, long after Mary Magdalene's death
4. **Gospel of Judas** – portrays Judas as hero helping Jesus fulfill His divine plan.
5. **Gospel of Peter** – written mid 2nd century and has bizarre elements like a talking cross.
6. **Gospel of Hebrews** – only a few fragments dated to the 2nd century.
7. **Gospel of Philip** - Likely 3rd century, not tied to the apostle Philip or any apostolic source.

In General: All non-canonical Gospels suffer from most of these issues:
1. Late Authorship: Most non-canonical gospels were written in the 2nd century or
2. Non-Apostolic Authorship: The canonical gospels were attributed to apostles
3. Theological Incompatibilities: such as: denying Jesus' divinity and humanity
4. Historical and Textual Issues: Non-canonical gospels often contain
5. Limited Circulation and Acceptance: The canonical gospels were widely used and accepted
6. Manuscript Evidence: Canonical gospels have thousands of early manuscripts

It is important to understand that **no** scholar of ancient literature affirms any of the "lost" gospels as authentic or historically accurate.

Lesson 10: The Earliest Creeds

"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

Critics of the Bible many times contend that by the time the New Testament was written so many years had passed that it would be like playing the game of telephone. After recounting the stories year after year and in so many areas; the miracles of Jesus were probably embellished and His deity in question. But we will examine **3 facts** and **5 groups** of people that refute the critics.

Ok, I will concede, to a skeptic, that they may have a difficult time believing some of the biblical accounts, such as Jesus turning water to wine or His walking on water. But if the resurrection can be shown to be true, then walking on water would be easy for God.

There are many ways to refute the "telephone" objection, but it may be best to reduce the argument to what Prof. Gary Habermas calls a "minimal facts" basis. Before any of the N.T. was written, the apostles preached verbally and all believers held certain statements of faith or creeds in common. These early Christian creeds all agree on these **3 facts**: 1) the **deity** of Jesus, 2) the **death** of Jesus, and 3) the **resurrection** of Jesus. We have all heard of the Nicaean Creed and the Apostles creed, which are statements of Belief. But many Christian creeds predate both of these.

Interestingly, the fact is that Christians agreed on these 3 things as early as 5 years following Jesus' crucifixion and is not disputed by any New Testament scholar.
James DG Dunn Cambridge University
"*This creed was formulated just months after the cross*"
Larry W Hurtado, a liberal New Testament scholar and member of the Jesus seminar said "*This creed was probably in circulation days after the resurrection"*
EP Sanders, liberal theologian at Duke University in his list of accepted theological facts about Jesus, says he "*knows that the disciples believed they saw Jesus after his death*."
Bart Erdman, an atheist scholar, author of many books, and a professor of religion at North Carolina University said "*I have no problem believing that the disciples thought they saw the risen Jesus and why wouldn't I affirm that, it's a fact of history."*

The best way to judge the reliability of an historical account is to have a testimony of multiple eyewitnesses. Next best is to have an account written soon after the event. In the case of these creeds, we have both, eyewitness accounts that were written down soon after the event.

The Bible has far better provenance that any other historical document. For example, the earliest manuscripts of Alexander the Great is over 300 years after his death and the earliest sayings of Buddha is 800 years after his death. The earliest Bible manuscripts date to only 95AD! A mere 60 years after Jesus' resurrection.

Here are some early Christian creeds found in the New Testament:
Romans 10:9-10 – *If you confess with your mouth the* ***Lord Jesus*** (deity) *and believe in your heart that God* ***raised Him from the dead*** (resurrection) …
Acts 3:15 *You killed the* ***author of life*** (deity)*, but God* ***raised Him*** *from the dead* (resurrection)
Philemon 2:6-11 *Though* ***He was God*** (deity) *…* ***God elevated Him*** (resurrection)

Additional Scriptures: Luke 24:34; Acts 2:22-24; 2:30-32; 4:10-12; 5:29-32; 10:39-41; 13:31; 13:37-39; Romans 1:3-4; 4:25; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 15:3-8; Philippians 2:6-11; 1st Timothy 2:6; 3:16; 6:13 2nd Timothy 2:8 ; Peter 3:18; 1st John 4:2

1st Corinthians 15: 3-8 ***I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ*** *(*deity*) died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4He was* ***buried*** *(*dead*), and he was* ***raised*** *(*resurrection*) from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. 5He was seen by* ***Peter*** *and then by the* ***Twelve****. 6After that, he was seen by more than* ***500*** *of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7Then he was seen by* ***James*** *and later by all the apostles. 8Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time,* ***I also saw him.***

There are many eyewitnesses to the resurrection and not one account that contradict the empty tomb or the resurrection. It would have been so easy to stop the spread of early Christianity. Simply show up with the dead body of Jesus.

These 5 groups these are important.

1. **Peter** – was ready to give it all up and go back to fishing. Instead, upon seeing his risen Savior, he could do nothing but proclaim his eyewitness account to anyone that would listen, regardless of the cost. Only the resurrection could account for such a change.
2. **The Twelve** – Each and everyone went from a despondent Saturday to a triumphant Sunday. Most gave their lives for their belief.
3. **500 Followers** – All were eyewitnesses and Paul is clear to point out that most are still alive. He was saying, "*Go talk to them, listen to them, believe them*."
4. **James** – the brother of Jesus. Before the resurrection James wanted him to stop teaching, come home, and quit acting nuts. But he changed once he saw the risen Christ.
5. **Paul** – Had every reason to hate the thought of the resurrection. He persecuted every Christian he could find. Upon seeing Jesus, he endured any hardship to preach the gospel.

For each of these groups, only believing that Jesus was alive could account for the change.

	Before they saw the resurrected Jesus	**After they saw the resurrected Jesus**
1	They had a fear of death	They believed even in the face of death
2	They kept the annual animal sacrifices	They believed that Jesus was the sacrifice
3	They kept the Sabbath religiously	They worshipped on Sunday
4	They believed in one God	They believed in the Trinity
5	They believed in circumcision	They believed in Baptism in Jesus

One verse to remember …

1st Corinthians 5: 3-8 ***I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ*** *(*deity*) died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4He was* ***buried*** *(*dead*), and he was* ***raised*** *(*resurrection*) from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures*

Lesson 11: Manuscript Variants Provides Reliability
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

The Bible is without Error
What do we mean when we say the Bible is inerrant? Christians believe that the Bible is without error or contradiction. But what translation or version of Bible is inerrant? Is it the King James Version? Actually we mean the original writings, know as the autographs, written in the original language is without error. No copy or translation can be assumed to be without error.

The O.T. was copied by professional scribes that were meticulous in faithfully copying the Hebrew Scriptures. Until the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in the 1950's the earliest copies of the O.T. was about 1000ad. The importance of the scrolls is they are copied from about 200bc. That is a difference of 1200 years. So how much did the O.T. change in 1200 years? Basically, not at all.

The N.T. was copied much differently. There was no formal structure that was prevalent in the Hebrew copies. The Romans received a copy of a letter written to the Corinthians and returned a copy of their letter. In the copying there was a possibility that some words may be left out or spelled differently. These are known as variants.

And so we need a "Textual Critic" to examine the external and internal evidence of many manuscripts and variants to make a determination of the original writing.

Variants
Some textural critics will put the number of variations of the New Testament text at over 100,000. At first that seems like an awful lot. The New Testament contains about 140,000 words. So that means that on the average there's as many variances there are words. How can you have any confidence that what you're reading is a copy of the original?

But on further examination you find that 99.9% of these have no bearing on the meaning.

For example, there's a variant called the vanishing Nu. A Nu is the Greek letter "n". When used as an article, it similar to the English "a" or "an". The meaning is the same whether you have the "n" or not. I can have "an apple" or "a apple" and no one is confused about the missing "N".

Another common example is spelling errors, which make up the majority of the variants.

Another example is word order. In Greek it makes no difference whether the order is in one way or the other. For example "*for God so loved the world*" is "gar egapesen theo**s** kosmo**n**". The ending of the word determines the subject and the object, not the word order. So, "kosmo**n** theo**s**" would translate to English identically. Whereas Theo**n** Kosmo**s** would read the world loves God.

So if we had 100,000 variants, taking these examples in the consideration, we end up with less than 100 that are viable and substantial. And none of these 100 variations affect anything theological, unless you belong to a church that loves to handle rattlesnakes. (See the long ending of Mark.)

The Earlier the Better

One of the earliest complete Greek manuscripts is a Codex Sinaiticus, dated from the 300's. Its importance is that being early; it may contain a more reliable text. If I have a much later copy that has added information, then it would be reasonable to assume some text may have been added. One such example is the passage of the woman caught in adultery. There is significant evidence that this passage was not in the original. Another example is the "long" ending of Mark. This is where we find, "*you can handle serpents*".

In rare cases a scribe may take it upon himself to add or delete a phrase. An example is Romans 8:1. ("*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*") The ending "*who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit"* is in the KJV but not in more recent versions. Older Greek manuscripts do not have this phrase and it can be shown that a scribe added these qualifiers in the 5th century. He may have done this to fit this verse into his theology. Also, Paul makes it clear in many verses that salvation is by grace alone – not of works.

An example of why many manuscripts and variants are a good thing. If I put one paragraph up on the screen and only Joe sees it and makes a copy then I remove the screen and you only have Joe's copy to look at, how can you know that Joe copied it correctly? If I put one paragraph up on the screen and 10 people all make copies. Then I remove the screen and you look at everyone's copy, if someone made a mistake then you would be able to see it clearly because eight or nine other copies would be correct. Now if I put a paragraph up on the screen and 5,800 people copy it then I have a lot to compare to determine what actually the original said. And the bible has a wealth of 5,800 manuscripts.

Lesson 12: Refuting Contradictions
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

What is a Contradiction?
Unless one can show that opposites are claimed in the same time and in the same sense, then it cannot be considered a legitimate contradiction. A mere difference or additional information does not make a contradiction!

A contradiction is having 'A' and not 'A' at the same time and in the same sense.
My dog is super hairy and my dog has almost no hair. This is an obvious contradiction if it is at the same time and in the same sense. But my dog could have super long hair before I took it to the groomers. A married bachelor can be an unmarried man because he is married to his work.

It is important to understand that when we say the Bible is without error, we mean that the original writings are inerrant. There can be mistranslations; as we will see. And there are rare cases of copy errors where information is dropped or added. In none of these cases, is there a contradiction in theology.

If you are going to claim there's a contradiction then it's your responsibility to prove that there's no possible explanation other than it a contradiction. Most of the so-called contradictions fall into one of the following logic errors.

Subset Fallacy … One passage may contain additional information.
The sign over Jesus' head
Matthew 27:37 *A sign was fastened above Jesus' head, announcing the charge against him. It read: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."*
Mark 15:26 *A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews."*
Luke 23:38 *A sign was fastened above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews."*
John 19:19 *And Pilate posted a sign on the cross that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."*
No two gospels are identical, but they are also not contradictions. The sign may have read; "*This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews*". The writers did not put quote marks like we use today to indicate a literal copy, instead each writer wrote what they considered important.
A Fierce Battle:
1st Chronicles 11:11 *Here is the record of David's mightiest warriors: The first was Jashobeam the Hacmonite, who was leader of the Three—the mightiest warriors among David's men. He once used his spear to kill* ***300 enemy warriors*** *in a single battle.*
2nd Samuel 23:8 *These are the names of David's mightiest warriors. The first was Jashobeam the Hacmonite, who was leader of the Three—the three mightiest warriors among David's men. He once* used his spear *to kill* ***800 enemy warriors*** *in a single battle. (NLT)*
8These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief among the captains. He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time. (NKJ)

Notice that the NLT added "used his spear". This phrase is NOT in the Hebrew or NKJ.
So; this one took a bit of research. So, we may conclude that Jashobeam killed 800 warriors, 300 with his spear and 500 by other means. Also, these did not need to be killed personally by just Jashobeam. We attribute the killing of 3,000 at the World Trade Center to Osama Ben-Laden, when he personally did not kill any. He was just the "captain".

Lesson 12: Refuting Contradictions

Bifurcation Fallacies … the either/or fallacy (render unto God or Caesar)
Matthew 27:5 *Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself.*
Acts 1:18 *(Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines...)*
So, did Judas hang himself or did his intestines spill out? It is possible that He hung himself and then was cut down, or the rope broke, or the branch broke, and then he fell from a height and spilled his intestines. It makes more sense than someone walking in a field and falling down and just bursting open. If one is going to claim a contradiction, one must prove there is no other possible explanation.

Mark 10:35 *Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor." 36"What is your request?" he asked. 37They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."*
Matthew 20:20 *Then the **mother** of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus **with her sons**. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. 21"What is your request?" he asked.*
She replied, "In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."
Who ask for best seat … James and John, or their mother? The answer may be both. It might have been the brother's request, but they had their mother ask also.

Mistranslations/Copy Errors … Who Killed Goliath?
1st Samuel 17:50 *So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. (*ESV)
2nd Samuel 21:19 *And there was **again war** with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, the Bethlehemite, struck down Goliath the Gittite, (ESV)*
Most translations include "***the brother of*** *Goliath*". This makes perfect sense in that this was a battle that occurred after David has killed Goliath as a youth. There has most likely been a copy error.

Literary Devices
Proverbs 26:4 ***Don't answer*** *the foolish arguments of fools, or you will become as foolish as they are. 5**Be sure to answer** the foolish arguments of fools, or they will become wise in their own estimation.*
"*It was the best of times; it was the worst of times*" (Tale of Two Cities). This literary device is known as an "Anaphora paradox". The Bible uses many kinds of literary devices, including poetry, imagery, anthropomorphism, hyperbole. When we contend that the Bible is literally true, we mean only that the words are literally or exactly what God intended, not that Jesus is literally a door.

Two verses to remember …

Mathew 27:5 *Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself.*
Acts 1:18 *(Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines...)*

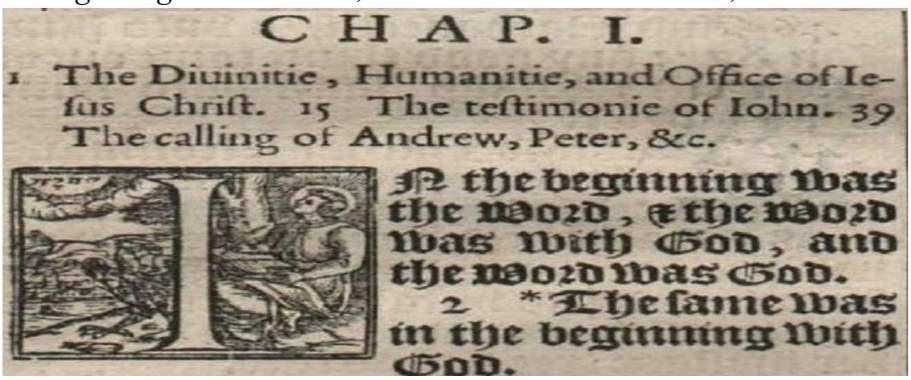
Lesson 13: Bible Translations – Word for Word or Thought for Thought

"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

When we say the Bible is without error, we mean that the original writings of the apostles are 100% what God inspired them to write. No translation can be 100% accurate. There are nuances in the Hebrew and Greek that are difficult to translate into English or any other language.

KJV: The King James Version is a word for word translation from the 1600's. It used 5 manuscripts available at the time. At this time there were 500 words that were only found in the New Testament. So the translators had to "assume" the meaning from the context. They did a pretty good job. An example is when Jesus cried out on the cross "*It is finished*" the Greek word is "*tetelestai*". Archeologists have since discovered "certificates of debt" that were marked "*tetelesai*" meaning "*paid in full*". Jesus' mission on the cross was to pay our sin debt and He **finished** that work and our sins are **paid in full.** A few other Greek words that we now have a fuller understanding of: 1) *makcharios* (Mathew 5:4 blessed, happy), 2) *huiothesia* (Romans 8:15 adopted)

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*



CHAP. I.

1 The Diuinitie, Humanitie, and Office of Ie-
ſus Chriſt. 15 The teſtimonie of Iohn. 39
The calling of Andrew, Peter, &c.

IN the beginning was
the Word, & the Word
was with God, and
the Word was God.
2 *The ſame was
in the beginning with
God.

NKJV: The New Kings James Version used the same manuscripts as the KJV but with updated the language. An example of this would be where Jesus said "*Suffer the little children*". NKJV translated this as "*allow the little children"*

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

NLT: The New Living Translation is a recent "thought for thought" translation, using dozens of ancient manuscripts. It also converts money, weights, and measures to current understanding. This is a much easier version to read and in many ways more accurate to the original.

John 1:1 *In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

NET: This New English Translation is unique in that there are over 60,000 translator notes revealing their translation decisions and providing various other translations. It is a best used for a study Bible. It is also unique in that it is published in public domain for free use.

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God.(3)*

Translator note: (3) *And the Word was fully God*. John's theology consistently drives toward the conclusion that Jesus, the incarnate Word, is just as much God as God the Father. This can be seen, for example, in texts like John 10:30 ("*The Father and I are one*"), 17:11 ("*so that they may be one just as we are one*"), and 8:58 ("*before Abraham came into existence, I am*").

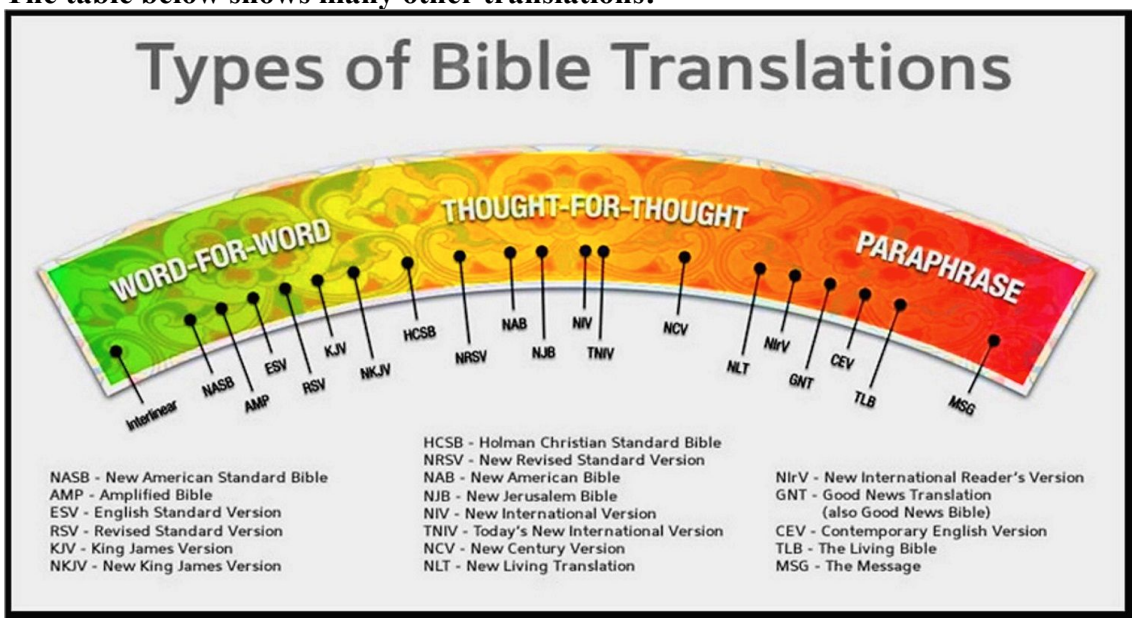
Lesson 13: Bible Translations – Word for Word or Thought for Thought

Interlinear: This is an exact word for word of the Hebrew and Greek and is useful for detailed word study. When studying, it is best to compared many different translations and even learn some basic
Greek.

	1722 [e]	746 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	3056 [e]		2532 [e]	3588 [e]	3056 [e]	1510 [e]	4314 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	2532 [e]
	En	archē	ēn	ho	Logos		kai	ho	Logos	ēn	pros	ton	Theon	kai
1	Ἐν	ἀρχῇ	ἦν	ὁ	Λόγος	,	καὶ	ὁ	Λόγος	ἦν	πρὸς	τὸν	Θεόν	, καὶ
	In [the]	beginning	was	the	Word		and	the	Word	was	with	-	God	and
	Prep	N-DFS	V-IIA-3S	Art-NMS	N-NMS		Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS	V-IIA-3S	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Conj

2316 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	3056 [e]	
Theos	ēn	ho	Logos	
Θεὸς	ἦν	ὁ	Λόγος	.
God	was	the	Word	
N-NMS	V-IIA-3S	Art-NMS	N-NMS	

The table below shows many other translations:



A bit more about the transmission and translation of the Bible.

There seems to be some confusion about how we get from the actual writings of the apostles to the Bible we can hold in our hands today. Some say it has be copied and changed so many times over the years that it is impossible to know was written 2000 years ago. Critics liken the Bible to the game of Telephone.

1. Original Greek – 45-95ad
2. Copied … 1st century
3. Recopied and transmitted around the known world …. 2nd century
4. Edited & copied
5. Translated to Latin 400ad
6. Copied
7. Recopied
8. Edited
9. Translated to German 1500's
10. Copied
11. Recopied
12. Edited
13. Translated to English 1609
14. Edited to our modern English

With such a chain of transmission I can understand why a skeptic might dismiss the Bible as authoritative. But the truth of the matter is far different from the above.

While we do not have any of the original Greek text, we do have over 5000 ancient manuscripts that can be compared to determine with 99.99% accuracy what the original said. So far from taking copied after copied translations, we have as close to the original as possible.

1. Original Greek – 45-95ad
2. Copied thousands of time … 1st through the 3rd centuries
3. Translated into Modern English by textual analysis of 5,000 early copies.

When the King James was translated in 1609, there were only 5 early manuscripts to verify and over 500 words that were only known from the Bible. Now, with not only the Bible manuscripts but many other Greek texts we have only a few words that are unique to the Bible. In 1609 it was thought that the Bible was written in a special "holy" Greek, but is now known that it was written in common,(koine) everyday Greek. The most amazing thing is that even with all of our additional knowledge of the Greek and ancient text there are NO theological differences comparing the King James to accepted modern versions.

Lesson 14: Scientific Evidence in the Bible
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

The Bible is not a scientific text. It is more historical than science. But, that said, if the Bible speaks to an area of science, it will be accurate. We will explore just a few of the statements that have scientific application. It is also noteworthy that sometimes the Bible and science appear to disagree. The nature of science is that it is constantly changing, while the Bible does not change. Sometimes we must wait patiently for science to catch up with the Bible. The purpose of studying the Bible and science relates to Psalm 19. *1The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.* (nkjv) As we study thi lesson our response to God's handiwork should be "Praise God!"

What is science?

The systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation, experimentation, and the testing of theories against the evidence obtained:

Science is the quest for knowledge. One branch of science is "experimental" science that fits the definition above. Another branch is forensic science that is **speculation on the past** and can neither be tested or proven. Different levels of proof are needed for experimental and forensic.
Unsubstantiated Hypotheses – Evolution falls into this category. It can not be tested and no experiment has ever shown one kind "evolving" into another kind.
Anecdotal Evidence – "An apple a day keeps the doctor away". Many people may make such a claim, but there has not been a double blind, scientific study to validate this maxim.
Preponderance of the Evidence – Based on evidence presented this is more likely to be true than not. Civil trials carry this burden of proof.
Beyond a Reasonable Doubt – The proof here is such that eyewitness testimony and forensic or historical evidence is such that any reasonable person agrees. Criminal trials carry this burden of proof. The fact that Jesus died on the cross is this kind of proof.
Mathematical Proof - This proof can be tested in real time and has a math formula to substantiate the claim. It has been examined in peer review articles. The law of gravity is one such example.

The Universe had a Beginning

Genesis 1:1 States that, *"In the beginning (*time*), God created (*energy*) the heavens (*space*) and the earth (*matter*)".* All science now agrees that the universe is made of time, space, matter, and energy. But this was not always the case. Most scientists rejected the idea of a beginning in favor of a static universe. Such was the case with the now established fact that the universe had a beginning.

"For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance, he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."— Robert Jastrow, God and the Astronomers

Science finally caught up with the Bible

Lesson 14: Scientific Evidence in the Bible

The Universe is Expanding

Isaiah 40:22 *God sits above the circle of the Earth …He spreads out the heavens like a curtain*

Most scientists before 1930 believed in a steady state universe. An unchanging universe. But in 1929 Edwin Hubble, using the new Mt Palomar 100" telescope, found that what was considered clouds of gas, or nebula, were actually galaxies, vast distances from our Milky Way. Not only that, but he calculated that the farther away a galaxy was, the faster it was moving away from us. Scientists shied away from such data as it had too many theological implications. The astronomer and Priest G. Lamatra embraced the idea immediately and atheist Fred Hoyle railed against the idea calling it the "Big Bang". Even Einstein initially rejected the idea of a changing universe even though his theory of relativity predicted it.

"Shortly after completing the general theory of relativity, Einstein applied his new theory of gravity to the universe as a whole. ***Assuming a universe that was static*** *…To achieve a consistent solution … Einstein found it necessary to introduce a new term to the field equations, the* ***cosmological constant****. …*
Following the discovery by Edwin Hubble of a linear relation between the red shifts of the galaxies and their distance in 1929, Einstein abandoned his static model of the universe and … he set the cosmological constant to zero, declaring it "no longer necessary ... it is claimed that Einstein referred to the cosmological constant in later years as his ***"biggest blunder"****."* Wikipedia

The chief editor of the science magazine Nature said *"We shouldn't go down this line that the universe had a beginning at a finite time in the past because it gives too much leverage too people that believe the Bible."*

Science finally caught up with the Bible

The Earth in Space

Job 26:7 *He hangs the Earth upon nothing …*

In a time when there were many fanciful ideas concerning the nature of the earth, the Bible stands alone in getting it right. The Greeks held to the idea that the god Atlas, having lost his battle with Zeus, was consigned to hold up the earth for eternity. The Hindu's had a much better idea. The earth was held up by 4 elephants standing a super big turtle.

Science finally caught up with the Bible

Lesson 14: Scientific Evidence in the Bible

Tectonic Plates – First Formulated by a Christian

Genesis 7:*11 the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up*,

Antonio Snider-Pellegrini published *The Creation and Its Mysteries Unveiled* in Paris in 1859. It went largely unnoticed. Snider-Pellegrini based his idea on *Genesis 1:9–10,* which suggests that God created the earth's original dry land as one large supercontinent. Snider-Pellegrini noticed the earth's continents seem to fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. He recognized the global Flood described in the historical account of Genesis 6–8 could provide the power to remodel the earth's crust.

Scientists now agree that the sea floor spreading, called plate tectonics, is responsible for separating the continents as they are today.

Science finally caught up with the Bible

The Bible & Evolution

Genesis 1:24 *Then God said, "Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals." And that is what happened. 25God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals,* ***each able to produce offspring of the same kind****. And God saw that it was good.*

Cats (lion, tigers, house cats) are one kind. Dogs, from wolves to the lowly appaloosa, are another kind. A "kind" is NOT akin to a species. It is broader, allowing for variation but within a kind. There has never been an experiment where one kind changed into another and we have never observed one kind evolving into another kind. Evolutionist respond that is takes thousand of generations before evolution could take place. Richard Lenski, Prof. at U. Michigan, has studied fruit flies for 40 years and over 40,000 generations, subjecting them to various environmental pressures. After what would be equivalent to millions of years of evolution he now has "fruit flies"

23 and Me

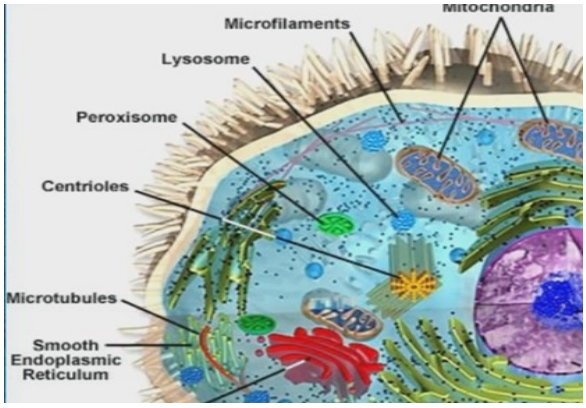
DNA is stored in chromosomes. All life forms must match up the chromosomes – one from father, one from mother. If the chromosomes do not match up then no viable offspring is produced. One example of this is the Horse has 64 and the Mule 62, the offspring is a donkey with 63 and a donkey cannot reproduce. Without viable offspring evolution has hit a dead end. Monkeys have 24 chromosomes and humans have 23. Some evolutionary biologists speculated that in the distant past two pre-monkey chromosomes merged creating the 23 that humans have. If this were true, this extremely rare event would still have a major problem. If there were a creature with the missing chromosome, who could it mate with? All of its "family" still has 24.

Lesson 14: Scientific Evidence in the Bible - DNA

Colossians 1:16 *for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—…17He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.*
Psalms 39:*13You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.14Thank you for making me so* ***wonderfully complex!*** *Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. 15You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.*

Until recently, we could not see the invisible "factory" that is used to form our parts in the womb. Advances in microscopy now allow science to "see" inside the cell and infer the programming language of DNA that defines our physical body. Interestingly, a light microscope can only see objects larger than 400nm; the shortest light wavelength. But an electron microscope can infer objects much smaller – such as the structure of the cell and DNA. And yes, DNA is a programming language, in the same way I have spent 50 years writing programs, just far more complex.

Darwin wrote a letter to his friend, following the publication of "*On the Origin of the Species by means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of* ***Favored Races*** *in the Struggle for Life*". In this letter he wrote that he "*could imagine a warm little pond where life's first cell originated from simple chemicals."*
Here is a picture of a "SIMPLE" cell->



DNA is a programming language. I have spent 50 years writing programs, DNA is just far more complex.

Bill Gates said "*Human DNA is like a computer program, but far, far more advanced than any software we've ever created."*

Francis Collins, of the Human DNA project, "*Think of DNA as an instructional script, a software program, sitting in the nucleus of the cell*."

DNA – Watson & Crick – 1953 - Most biologists of the time were more interested in examining proteins. They were far more interesting and complex. Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) had far less complexity (but has way more specificity). Two scientists at Cambridge University devoted their time to the study of DNA. In 1953 they had a breakthrough, deciphering the double helix of DNA

Code Hypothesis – During WWII, Crick was code breaker. It took a few years once the structure of DNA was discovered until its full purpose was realized. DNA is the "Book of Life", coding for every protein and enzyme your body needs to grow and survive." Each body type, such as mammal or broccoli, has a unique set of code or instructions.

Lesson 14: Scientific Evidence in the Bible - DNA

We need to examine this coding a bit more to begin to understand the complexity and specificity in any code. Whether it is computer code or the English language or DNA, there has to be an understanding on how these codes are interpreted. The chart below shows how each of the codes builds from the simple to complex. For example, the English language begins with letters, then words, paragraphs, chapters, and a book.

Computer Code	**English Language**	**Biology DNA**
Bit: 0 or 1	Stroke: (, - , O, |, or)	Base: A, C, T, or G
Byte (8 bits -128 combos)	Stroke Combo (G, O, or D)	Codon (3 bases, 64 combos)
Select ASCII coding	Select ENGLISH	Selects for Amino Acid
256 Letters & Numbers	26 Letters	20 Amino Acids
Words (Instructions)	Words	Amino Chains i.e.: Hem-b
Paragraphs (Sub-Routine)	Paragraphs	Proteins i.e.: Hemoglobin
Combine Subs for Programs	Combine Para. For Chapters	Combine Pr. For Cells (1)
Combine Prog. For Systems	Combine Chapters to Books	System (Circulatory)
Combine Systems, Ap.Suite	Combine books, Library	Combine systems, BodyPlan
Arranged by Function	Arranged by Topic/Author	Arranged by Body Type

ASCII Coding Table – 8 bit binary (0000 0000 = null or 0100 0001 = A)
A computer bit contains no useful information. It must be combined into an 8-bit byte AND have a coding structure to contain useful information. Remember; *there are 10 types of people, those that understand binary and those that do not.*

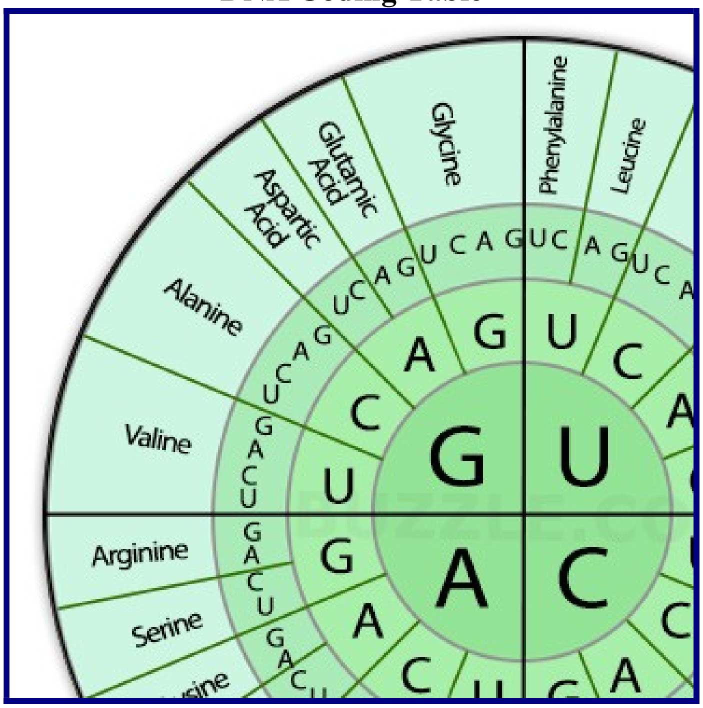
ASCII TABLE

Decimal	Hex	Char	Decimal	Hex	Char	Decimal	He
0	0	[NULL]	32	20	[SPACE]	64	40
1	1	[START OF HEADING]	33	21	!	65	41
2	2	[START OF TEXT]	34	22	"	66	42
3	3	[END OF TEXT]	35	23	#	67	43
4	4	[END OF TRANSMISSION]	36	24	$	68	44
5	5	[ENQUIRY]	37	25	%	69	45
6	6	[ACKNOWLEDGE]	38	26	&	70	46
7	7	[BELL]	39	27	'	71	47
8	8	[BACKSPACE]	40	28	(	72	48
9	9	[HORIZONTAL TAB]	41	29	)	73	49
10	A	[LINE FEED]	42	2A	*	74	4A
11	B	[VERTICAL TAB]	43	2B	+	75	4B
12	C	[FORM FEED]	44	2C	,	76	4C
13	D	[CARRIAGE RETURN]	45	2D	-	77	4D
14	E	[SHIFT OUT]	46	2E	.	78	4E
15	F	[SHIFT IN]	47	2F	/	79	4F
16	10	[DATA LINK ESCAPE]	48	30	0	80	50
17	11	[DEVICE CONTROL 1]	49	31	1	81	51
18	12	[DEVICE CONTROL 2]	50	32	2	82	52
19	13	[DEVICE CONTROL 3]	51	33	3	83	53

Lesson 14: Scientific Evidence in the Bible – DNA

In the same way computers need a coding system before the information is useful, DNA also has a coding structure. Combine 3 bases to form a Codon. Codons are decoded for any one of 20 amino acids. Amino acids are combined to form one of 20,000 proteins. For example, the amino acid tryptophan must contain the bases of UGG. DNA can be damaged by changing just one letter in the coding. For example, change the 6th amino acid in hemoglobin from Glutamic Acid (GAG) to Valine GUG), and the person has a disease called sickle cell anemia.

DNA Coding Table



Form Follows function. Each protein has a unique 3 dimensional shape. This shape determines the function. Just like the shape of a saw determines its purpose. If you wish to create a new life form or body plan, you need new proteins. You need new DNA coding.

Chance, Necessity, or Design. Everything that occurs is because of chance (a coin flip), necessity (apples fall), or design (Mt. Rushmore). Let's examine which of these relate to DNA coding.

Computing the Chances
The average protein contains 400 amino acids. There are 20 possible amino acids to choose from. If only one amino acid was needed then the odds of getting the right one is 1:20 or 20^1 power. If two are required, then the odds are 20x20 or 1:400 or 20^2. With each addition, the chances grow exponentially. Three would be 20x20x20 or 1:8000. With 400 amino acids, the number is 20^400th power. That is a 20 with 400 zeros.
2000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
0000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
0000000000000000000000000000000000000000

Any number greater than 10^50th is considered impossible. There is not even a name for a number this large. It is way larger than every elementary particle in the entire universe times the number of possible events since the beginning of time. And remember – this is only one of the 20,000 proteins needed for human life. **Not a chance!**

Lesson 14: Scientific Evidence in the Bible - DNA

Then is it Necessary?

What is meant by necessity? Simply, an event occurs due to fundamental laws. Such as if you let go of a ball – it will fall by necessity because of the law of gravity.

DNA is a relative simple molecule. A simple sugar phosphate backbone with one of 4 nucleotide bases attached. Each of these bases (thymine, cytosine, guanine, and adenine) can attach in any order. An analogy would be letters on a magnetic blackboard. You can place any letter in any position. So, there is no necessity for the order.

That leaves Design

Since we have eliminated Chance and Necessity, the only factor left is Design. When we look at information and we trace it back to the primary source, it is ALWAYS a product of an intelligent mind. It does not matter if it is the Rosetta stone, Mt Rushmore, or War and Peace, the Mono Lisa, or Beethoven's 5th. All are products of a mind. When we look at the design and coding of DNA, it must trace back to a super intelligent mind

Is it possible that God even signed His work?

What holds DNA together?

DNA contains hydrogen-hydrogen bonds bringing the nucleotide rungs of the DNA ladder together. A recent discovery by the Israeli scientist, Dr. Israel Rubinstein, hints that there are also sulfur-sulfur bonds for added strength. These occur at intervals of 10, 5, 6, and 5 between the hydrogen bonds and then repeats. In Hebrew, numbers are designated by letters; 10-**Y**; 5-**H** 6-**W** 5-**H**. **YHWH** is embedded millions of times in each cell of your body.

In early Hebrew letters also indicated words.
5=Behold, 6=Nail,
5=Behold, 10=Hand

One verse to remember … (And so we end this teaching with the first verse of the Bible.)

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning (*time*), God created (*energy*) the heavens (*space*) and the earth (*matter*).*

Lesson 15: Archeology

A few Archaeological Evidences Confirming the Bible's Accuracy

Archaeological discoveries have repeatedly corroborated the historical details in the Bible, from ancient kings and events to textual transmission and cultural practices. Below is a currated list of 10 key examples, drawing from both Old and New Testaments, with brief explanations of their biblical connections.

1. The Dead Sea Scrolls

In 1940, the most recent manuscripts of some Old Testament books, like Isaiah, were dated to the middle ages. This brought into question of the veracity of the text since there were so many years of copying since it was written about 600bc.

Discovered in 1947 near the Dead Sea, ancient manuscripts were found that included nearly complete books of the Hebrew Bible dating back to the 3rd century BC. They show remarkable consistency with later biblical texts, affirming the accurate preservation of the Old Testament over centuries. The text of Isaiah (200bc) is virtually identical to the previous oldest copy, showing how well it had been copied in the past 1000 years.

Lesson 15: Archeology

2. Tel Dan Inscription

2nd Samuel 5:1 *Then all the tribes of Israel went to David at Hebron and told him, "We are your own flesh and blood. 2 In the past, when Saul was our king, you were the one who really led the forces of Israel. And the LORD told you, 'You will be the shepherd of my people Israel. You will be Israel's leader.'" 3 So there at Hebron,* ***King David*** *made a covenant before the LORD with all the elders of Israel. And they anointed him king of Israel.*

Many historians doubted the reign of David as King of Israel.

Thomas L. Thompson a leading minimalist scholar, argued in the *Early History of the Israelite People* (1992) that "*The narratives of David and Solomon reflect a literary and ideological construct, not historical reality."*

Niels Peter Lemche In A *New History of Israelite Society* (1988) questioned the historicity of David, "*... we must assume the Davidic narratives are largely fictional*."

Unearthed in 1993 at Tel Dan in northern Israel, this 9th-century BC Aramaic stele mentions the "House of David," providing the earliest extra-biblical reference to King David and validating the existence of his dynasty as described in 2 Samuel and 1 Kings.

Lesson 15: Archeology

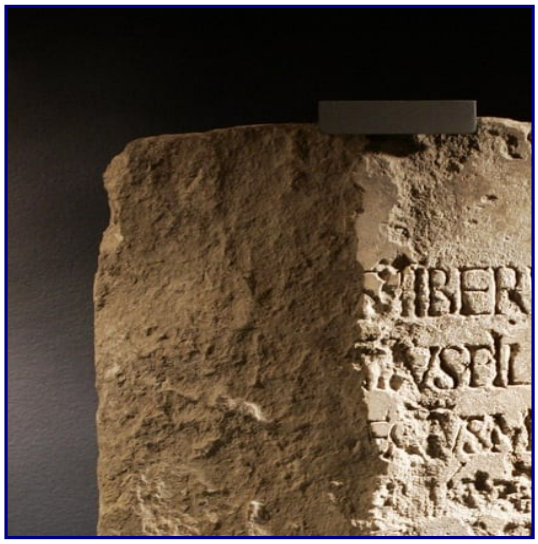
3. Pilate Stone

Matthew 27:19 *Just then, as* ***Pilate*** *was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message: "Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night." 20 Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. 21 So the* ***governor*** *asked again, "Which of these two do you want me to release to you?" The crowd shouted back, "Barabbas!" 22* ***Pilate*** *responded, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" 23 "Why?"* ***Pilate*** *demanded. "What crime has he committed?" But the mob roared even louder, "Crucify him! 24* ***Pilate*** *saw that he wasn't getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. The responsibility is yours!"*

Many historians doubted even the existence of a man named Pilate who was governor of Judea at the time of Jesus.

David Friedrich Strauss (1808–1874)
Background: A German theologian and author of *The Life of Jesus Critically Examined* (1835),
"*The account of Pilate's hesitation and the crowd's demand for crucifixion bears the marks of a later tradition, shaped to fulfill messianic expectations rather than historical reality*."

Ernest Renan (1823–1892)
Background: A French historian and author of *Life of Jesus* (1863), "*Pontius Pilate, as described in the Gospels, appears more as a dramatic character than a historical personage, his role shaped to suit the narrative of Christian theology*."



Found in 1961 at Caesarea Maritima, this limestone inscription from the 1st century AD names "*Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea*," confirming the Roman governor who ordered Jesus' crucifixion as detailed in the Gospels.

Lesson 15: Archeology

4. Heel Bone of a Crucified Man

Psalms 22:16 *My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet.*

Many historians doubted that Romans would have put nails in the hands or feet. The hands would not support the weight of the body. Instead victims would be tied to a cross.

In 1970, archeologist found a heel bone of a crucified man with an iron nail through it.

And as to could a hand support the weight of a body, Koine Greek had no distinct common word for "wrist." Instead, the word for "hand" (χείρ, cheir) was used to cover what we call the hand and the wrist (and sometimes part of the forearm).

Histories 6.23.7 Describing Roman soldiers training with shields:
"*They cover their whole body and the hand (cheira) that holds the shield*."
The mechanics — how a Roman shield was held. The soldier's hand slid through a strap or grasped this bar. The strap (sometimes a leather loop) went over the forearm near the wrist. The hand then grasped a wooden or metal handle running behind the central boss. The "hand" here is the entire gripping fore-segment, protected by the shield boss and strap — including the wrist area.

The ulna (thumb) and radius bones are attached to the wrist. In between is the carpal tunnel, a bundle of nerves for the fingers. It would have been excruciatingly painful but as secure place to nail a hand to a cross.

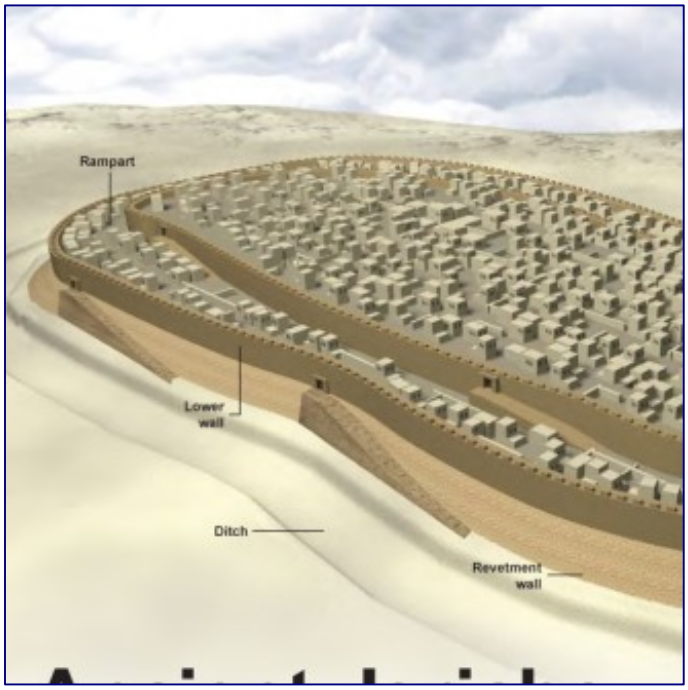
Lesson 15: Archeology

5. Archaeology of Jericho

*Joshua 6:20 When the people heard the sound of the rams' horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, **the walls of Jericho collapsed**, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it. 21 **They completely destroyed everything** in it with their swords—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep, goats, and donkeys. 22 Meanwhile, Joshua said to the two spies, "Keep your promise. Go to the prostitute's house and bring her out, along with all her family." 23 The men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, mother, brothers, and all the other relatives who were with her. They moved her whole family to a safe place near the camp of Israel. 24 Then the Israelites **burned the town and everything in it**. Only the things made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron were kept for the treasury of the LORD's house.*

Joshua 2:15 Then, since Rahab's house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window.

City Walls and Fortifications



Jericho's walls are central to the biblical account of their collapse (Joshua 6:20). Excavations by John Garstang (1930–1936) identified multiple phases of mudbrick walls from different periods, including the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (ca. 3,000–2,300 BC). Garstang initially attributed a collapsed wall to the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1400 BC), aligning with a traditional date for Joshua's conquest

Garstang's excavations uncovered a destruction layer with **signs of burning**, which he linked to the biblical conquest around 1400 BC, citing charred remains and collapsed structures.

The biblical account of walls falling "flat" (Joshua 6:20) has been scrutinized. Some suggest an earthquake could explain a collapse, as Jericho lies near a fault line

Scarabs inscribed with the name of Pharaoh Thutmose III have been found at Jericho, serving as crucial archaeological evidence for dating the city's destruction in the 15th century BC. Discovered in tombs by John Garstang, these scarabs, were used as dating tools, similar to coins, to support the biblical timeline for the destruction of Jericho

Only 3 cities were completely burned. They were Jericho, Ai, and Hazor. All were associated with sacrifice to Moloch by burning children. God judged them in the same manner as their sin.

Lesson 16: Onomastic Congruence

Onomastic congruence is the term for an historical argument that a text's naming patterns accurately reflect the time and place in which it is said to have been written. This means the use of names and qualifiers is consistent with the popular names and naming conventions of the relevant historical and geographical context, which can be used as evidence of the text's reliability.

Some Bible critics claim the gospels could not be historically accurate since they were written decades after the events and not even written where the events took place.

Where then did these anonymous Greek speaking authors living outside of Palestine some 35 to 65 years after the events they narrate get their information? Skeptic, Bart Erdman from his book Jesus, page 46.

Where were the gospels written? According to early church tradition …

Matthew was probably written in Syria or Judea
Mark was written in Rome
Luke was written in Antioch & Rome
John was written in Ephesus

So Bart Erdman's question is actually a very good one. If in fact the gospels were written years later and not in the location the events took place, how could they get so many details correct?

The test of knowledge of the time and of a particular place might include knowledge of: Agriculture, architecture, botany, customs, economics, geography, language, law, personal names, politics, religion, topography, and weather.

How can someone without detailed knowledge of the land write a narrative with such details as the gospels contain?

PERSONAL NAMES:

Personal names change over time and place. For example, in 1950 Joe was the #13 most popular name for a baby, Donna was #8, Harold was #57, and Emma was not in the top 1000. But from 2008 to 2014 Emma was the #1 most popular name for a baby.

Our group has 2 Donnas, so we need to disambiguate between the two.

Think about this. If you had to write a story about chefs in Mexico 50 years ago, could you get the right name frequency?

A recent study of 3000 names from 2000 years ago detail the frequency of names in Israel and those outside and find that the names differ from one location to the other. The gospels, written outside of Israel, got all of the names correct.

Lesson 16: Onomastic Congruence

Tal Llan, a German researcher wrote A Lexicon of Jewish Names in Antiquity, 2002. This is a table from analyzing the New Testament, Ossuaries, Josephus, and other historical records. His information leads us to some fascinating conclusions.

Name	Total	New Testament
1. Simon	243	8
2. Joseph	218	6
3. Lazerus	166	1
4. Judas	164	5
5. John	122	5
6. Jesus	99	2
7. Ananias	82	2
8. Jonathon	71	0
9. Matthew	62	2
10. James	40	5
1. Mary		5

Notice that most common names have a qualifier attached that provides enough information to disambiguate one personal name from another. For example, the most popular name of the time was Simon, and the Bible qualifies each Simon

Simon Peter
Simon the zealot
Simon the leper
Simon of Cyrene
Simon the tanner
Simon the sorcerer

The same with the most popular womans name … Mary:

Mary, mother of Jesus
Mary Magdaline
Mary, mother of James

Here are the names of the twelve apostles with their frequency:

first, Simon -#1- (also called Peter), then Andrew (Peter's brother), James -#11- (son of Zebedee), John -#5- (James's brother), Philip -#61-, Bartholomew -#50-, Thomas, Matthew -#9- (the tax collector), James -#11- (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus -#39-, Simon -#1- (the zealot), Judas -#4- Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

Notice the less common names like Philip -#61-, Bartholomew -#50-, and Thaddaeus -#39- are not disambiguated. The fact that the gospel writers got the right names in the right places at the right time attests to the accuracy of the gospels. The writers had to be reliable, high quality, first person witnesses.

Lesson 16: Onomastic Congruence

Names are hard

Stories and plots are easy to remember … names are far more difficult. For example, in Wizard of Oz, everyone can remember the plot and each character, but who can name the good witch? (Glinda). Richard Bauckham, in Jesus and the Eyewitnesses, identifies about 160 distinct named individuals. The fact that the Gospel writers could record so many names after so many years must tell us that they had to have 1) been inspired by the Holy Spirit, or 2) had written much prior to distributing their Gospels, or 3) been some of the most brilliant people in history, or all three.

Jesus was a popular name

The gospel writers most always refer to the Lord as "Jesus" even though it is a very common name. In contrast, the other characters most always qualified His name.

Luke 18:*35 As **Jesus** approached Jericho, a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. 36 When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. 37 They told him that **Jesus the Nazarene** was going by. 38 So he began shouting, "**Jesus, Son of David**, have mercy on me."*

GEOGRAPHY

Not only do the writers name the well known places but also places one would only know if they had been there. Aenon, Bethphage, Cana, Emmaus, Sychar, and 23 in total. It would be like us being able to know places around Jacksonville like Yulee or Maclenney, but someone from New York would not have a clue. They also knew the direction, the travel time, and the location of these places. Interestingly, NONE of the dozen "lost" gospels name any places other than Jerusalem and Nazareth. Only the Gospels have the details that make it seem historically accurate,

BOTANY

Luke 19:*1 Jesus entered **Jericho** and made his way through the town. 2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. 3 He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a **sycamore-fig tree** beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.*

Sycamores do not grow in Turkey, Greece, or Rome, but do grow in Jericho. If, in fact, the Gospels were written outside of Israel, then details of local botany would also attest to the writer's eyewitness reliability.

CONCLUSION

There were so many opportunities to get a name, a place, or a feature wrong in the Gospels, but they get it right time after time after time after time. At some point even the most critical person must come to realize that the Gospels are not like the game of telephone but accurate first hand accounts of actual events. And if they are proved reliable in actual events, then when they attest that the tomb is empty … He is Risen.

Lesson 17: Un-designed Coincidences

An un-designed coincidence is when one detail from one gospel account helps explain details from another gospel account. It is like have pieces of a puzzle and you can only see the full picture if you have all pieces.

Coincidence #1: False Witnesses' Claim About the Temple

1. The Problem in the Synoptics (Matthew & Mark)

At Jesus' trial, Matthew and Mark record that false witnesses stood up and accused Him:
"This *man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'*" (Matt. 26:61)
"*We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands*.'" (Mark 14:58)

These statements are presented as false testimony, yet they sound strangely specific. Where did such an accusation come from?

2. The Background in John

In John 2:19, Jesus actually said something similar much earlier in His ministry:
"*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up*."

John clarifies that Jesus was speaking figuratively about His body, not the literal temple.

3. The Connection

The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark) never report Jesus making this specific statement.

John records Him saying it, but never places it at the trial scene.

Only when you put them together does the coherence emerge: the false witnesses had twisted a real statement of Jesus (reported by John) into a charge against Him (recorded by Matthew & Mark).

4. Why It Matters

If Matthew and Mark were inventing false witnesses' testimony, why give them such an odd, detailed line?

If John invented Jesus' temple saying, why would it perfectly explain the Synoptics' otherwise mysterious accusation?

The natural fit suggests independent truthfulness: John's record supplies the background that makes sense of Matthew's and Mark's trial account.

Lesson 17: Un-designed Coincidences

Coincidence #2. Why ask Peter three times "*Do you love me?*" (John 21:15–17) — The threefold pattern connects back to Peter's three denials; other Gospels explain the timing.

Coincidence: The Threefold "Do You Love Me?" and Peter's Three Denials

(John 21 compared with the Synoptic Gospels)

1. The Scene in John

In John 21:15–17, after the resurrection, Jesus asks Peter three times:
"*Simon, son of John, do you love Me?*"

Each time, Peter replies that he does, and Jesus commissions him:
"*Feed My lambs... Tend My sheep... Feed My sheep*."

John doesn't explicitly tell the reader why Jesus repeats the question three times. The repetition seems almost painful — Peter is "grieved" the third time. But John doesn't spell out what the repetition is meant to recall.

2. The Background from the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, Luke)

The Synoptic Gospels record that Peter denied Jesus three times on the night of His arrest (Matt. 26:69–75; Mark 14:66–72; Luke 22:54–62).

After the third denial, Luke adds a poignant detail:
"*The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter... And Peter went out and wept bitterly*." (Luke 22:61–62)

3. The Connection

The threefold question "Do you love me?" precisely mirrors the threefold denial of Jesus.

In John 21, Jesus is restoring Peter publicly, giving him a chance to affirm his devotion the same number of times he had denied his Lord.

Yet, John doesn't explain that the repetition is symbolic — he assumes the reader either knows about the denials (from earlier in his Gospel or the Synoptics).

This creates an un-designed coincidence:

The Synoptics explain why Peter would need this threefold restoration.

John's account of Jesus' words makes emotional and moral sense only when read against the background of those denials.

Lesson 17: Un-designed Coincidences

Coincidence #2.

4. Why It Matters

There's no sign of literary coordination — John never says, "This was to undo Peter's three denials."

The fit is subtle and psychological, not mechanical.

Each Gospel stands alone, but together they form a harmonious whole:

The Synoptics describe Peter's failure,

John describes his rehabilitation.

This natural interlock — personal, emotional, and unforced — is one of the strongest evidences of independent truthfulness.

Lesson 17: Un-designed Coincidences

Coincidence #3. How did we learn what Herod's servants said? (Matt 14:1–2) — Luke's mention of Joanna (connected to Herod's household) explains how such court gossip could be known. (Luke 8:3; Matthew 14:1–2; Mark 6:14–16; Luke 9:7–9)

1. The Problem / Puzzle
In the Gospels, we're told what Herod Antipas said and thought about Jesus.

Matthew 14:1–2:
"*At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus and said to his servants, 'This is John the Baptist; he has been raised from the dead!*'"

Mark 6:14–16 records the same idea — Herod believed Jesus was John resurrected. Luke 9:7–9 adds that Herod was perplexed, hearing different rumors about Jesus — some said Elijah, others said one of the prophets risen again.

Now here's the question: How would the Gospel writers know what Herod's servants heard, or what Herod himself said privately to them? Herod's palace was not exactly friendly to Jesus' followers!

2. The Background Clue (Luke 8:3)
Earlier in Luke's Gospel, there's a small, easily overlooked detail:
"*Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, who were helping to support [Jesus and the disciples] out of their own means.*"

This means: Joanna was married to Chuza, one of Herod's high-ranking officials (essentially a palace manager or household administrator). Joanna herself was a follower of Jesus, traveling with Him and supporting His ministry financially.

3. The Connection

Luke's mention of Joanna gives a natural insider link between Herod's court and the circle of Jesus' followers. This makes perfect sense of how the early Christians — and thus the Gospel writers — could have known what Herod said to his servants about Jesus. Joanna, or those close to her, could easily have heard the account and passed it on.

4. Why It Matters

The detail about Joanna in Luke 8:3 appears much earlier and is mentioned casually, with no hint it will later explain anything. The later scenes (Herod's comments in Matthew, Mark, and Luke 9) never mention her or connect the dots. Yet when the texts are read together, they form a natural, historically credible link — an un-designed coincidence.

This shows: The Gospels reflect real people and relationships. The authors didn't fabricate or over explain; they assumed familiarity with true background facts. The coherence is subtle, the kind that happens in authentic historical testimony, not in contrived stories.

Lesson 17: Un-designed Coincidences

Coincidence #4. Why did Jesus ask Philip where to buy food?

Luke 9:10 *When the apostles returned, they told Jesus everything they had done. Then he slipped quietly away with them toward the town of Bethsaida. 11But the crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him.*

John 6:5 *Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?"*

John 12:20 *Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration 21paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee*.

Lesson 18: Conclusion
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

1) When I consider that only the Bible contains hundreds of detailed fulfilled prophecies; I believe that the words could only come from an all knowing God.

2) When I consider how meticulously the Old and New Testaments were faithfully copied; I believe that only God could have directed the 40 different authors over 1500 years.

3) When I consider that the New Testament was written early and believers of the day accepted it as Gods word; I believe it is still as trustworthy today as it was in the first century.

4) When I consider the ways that science is in some ways in conflict with the Bible; I am encouraged that science has recently caught up with the Bible.

5) When I consider all of the above and believe that the Bible contains Gods written word to each of us; I believe that what is says about me must be truth.

So what does the Bible have to say about us?

Romans 3:23, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*." We have all sinned. We have all done things that are displeasing to God. There is no one who is innocent.

Romans 6:23a, teaches us about the consequences of sin: "*For the wages of sin is death."* The punishment that we have earned for our sins is death. Not just physical death, but eternal death!

Romans 6:23b: "*But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*."

Romans 5:8 declares, "*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Jesus Christ died for us! Jesus' death paid for the price of our sins. Jesus' resurrection proves that God accepted Jesus' death as the payment for our sins.

Romans 10:9, "*That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*" Because of Jesus' death on our behalf, all we have to do is believe in Him, trusting His death as the payment for our sins - and we will be saved!

Romans 8:1 says, "*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*." Because of Jesus' death on our behalf, we will never be condemned for our sins.

Would you like to follow the Romans Road to salvation? If so, here is a simple prayer you can pray to God. Saying this prayer is a way to declare to God that you are relying on Jesus Christ for your salvation. The words themselves will not save you. Only faith in Jesus Christ can provide salvation!

"**God, I know that I have sinned against you and am deserving of punishment. But Jesus Christ took the punishment that I deserve so that through faith in Him I could be forgiven. With your help, I place my trust in You for salvation. Thank You for Your wonderful grace and forgiveness - the gift of eternal life! Amen!"**

Appendix:

Additional information is available.

(Youtube) Alvin Plantiga, Properly Basic Beliefs, part 1
(Youtube) Dr William Craig, Properly Basic Beliefs

The Reliability of the Bible

A study series affirmation:

"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word;*
The more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."

Contents - Worksheets

Prophecy Proves the Reliability of the Bible
Lesson 1: It's Tough to Make Predictions.
Lesson 2: Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Ezekiel – The Fall of Tyre
Lesson 3: Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Ezekiel – The Restoration of Israel
Lesson 4: Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Daniel 11– The Persian and Greek Kings
Lesson 5: Messianic Fulfilled Prophecy from Genesis – Abraham & Isaac
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Lesson 7: Messianic Fulfilled Prophecy from Isaiah – The Forbidden Passage

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Lesson 8: The Tanakh Canon and the Apocrypha
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Conclusion
Lesson 18: Conclusion

By Larry Hughes
904/755-8556

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All scripture verses are from the Living New Testament (Thomas-Nelson) unless noted

Lesson1: It's Tough to Make Predictions – Worksheet

"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

Why study about the reliability of the Bible?

What is the best way for God to communicate to us?

What has God provided so we can be assured that the Bible is His word?

Read the following passages and list how they may provide this assurance:

Deuteronomy 18:21-22

Jeremiah 28:1-14

Ezekiel 33:32-33

Isaiah 41:21-24

Isaiah 46:10

Optional: Research and list a prophecy from any of the following …

Nostradamus

Mormons

Jehovah Witnesses

Quran

Memorize the following verse …

Isaiah 46:10 ***Only I can tell you the future before it even happens.*** *Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.*

Lesson 2: Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Ezekiel – The fall of Tyre - Worksheet
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

Read Ezekiel chapter 26

Read about the city of Tyre from any source such as Wikipedia.

What happened to Tyre?
Ezekiel writes this prophecy about the fall of the city of Tyre about 590bc, hundreds of years before it came to pass. Tyre was one of the oldest and best fortified cities of ancient times. They were rightfully confident that they could withstand any siege, as they had done for centuries. But, like Ezekiel prophesied, Tyre fell to its enemies.

3 Therefore the Lord God says: "I stand against you, Tyre, and I will bring nations against you like ocean waves.
Ocean waves would indicate which of the following?

a) a sudden catastrophic fall happening quickly
b) a gradual wearing down until little is left.

12 "They will plunder all your riches and merchandise and break down your walls. They will destroy your lovely homes and dump your stones and timber and even your dust into the sea."
The dumping of stones, timber and even dust into the sea might be …

a) to show how utterly destructive Tyre's enemies are
b) to build a causeway to get to Tyre's island fortress

14 I will make your island a bare rock, a place for fishermen to spread their nets.
A place for fishermen to spread their nets might be …

a) this might be an analogy since fishermen spread their nets in the water not on rocks
b) it should be taken literally even if specific

Memorize the following verse …

Ezekiel 26: *14* ***I will make your island a bare rock, a place for fishermen to spread their nets.***

Lesson 3: Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Ezekiel – The Restoration of Israel - Worksheet
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

Complete the series affirmation above …
The more confidence I have .....

In Ezekiel's time – Israel would have 2 restorations to their land. The first would be after 70 years of captivity in Babylon. The second, at some future time, they would be restored from many nations

Read the following passages
Read Jeremiah 24:5-6
Read Isaiah 11:11-12
Read Ezekiel 36:24-26

Name 2 Differences between the first and second restorations

Read Ezekiel 37:1-8 What do the dry bones represent?

Memorize the following verse …

Ezekiel 36:*34* ***For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land..***

Lesson 4: Specific Fulfilled Prophecy from Daniel 11 – The Persian and Greek Kings - Worksheet

"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

The history of the Middle East seems to have always been in turmoil. Daniel was in captivity in Babylon when God spoke to him about the following world events. He was speaking from the time of Darius and predicted 3 more Persian kings would arise, then a forth one arises that uses his riches to come against Greece. History confirms Daniels prophecy.

Read all of Daniel 11:

Daniel 11:4 *And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the* ***four winds of heaven****, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.*

What King arose and conquered most of the known world?

What Does the four winds of heaven allude to?

What does "not among his posterity allude to?

Research (Wikipedia) is find the 4 kingdoms that were divided after the one Kings death.

1)

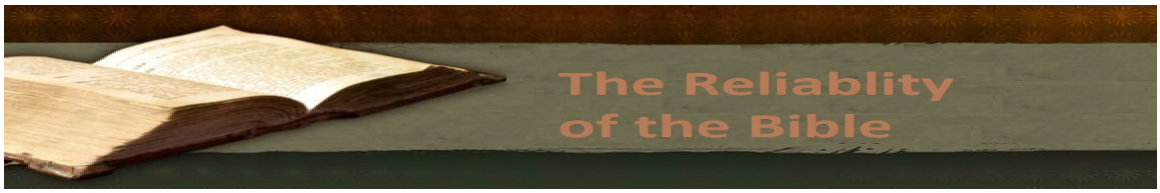
2)

3)

4)

Memorize the following verse …

Daniel 11:4 *And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.*



Lesson 5: Messianic Fulfilled Prophecy from Genesis 22-Abraham & Isaac - Worksheet
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

Read all of Genesis 22:

List 5 similarities between Isaac and Jesus

1) v2 "*Take your son, your only son"*
Jesus was called God's only Son

2) v6 "*Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders"*
Jesus carried the wood cross to Calvary

3)

4)

5)

Memorize the following verse …

Genesis 22:14 *Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."*

Lesson 6: Messianic Fulfilled Prophecy from Psalms 22-A Picture of Crucifixion - Worksheet
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

A bit of Trivia:

1) How many Psalms are there?

2) How many did David write?

3) Was Psalm 22 written from one of many of David's exploits or character?

4) If it is a poem; why doesn't rhyme?

Read all of Psalms 22

List 5 similarities from Psalm 22 and Jesus' death on the cross

1) v1 "*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me*"
Mark 15:34 Jesus cried out this phrase on the cross

2)

3)

4)

5)

Memorize the following verse …

Psalms 22:1 "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me.

Lesson 7: Messianic Fulfilled Prophecy from Isaiah 53 – The Forbidden Chapter -Worksheet
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

Read Isaiah 52:13 thru 53:12

All of the gospels make reference to this passage.

List 5 similarities from Isaiah 53 and Jesus' ministry

1) v5 *But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.*
He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

2)

3)

4)

5)

Why are the prophecies in the past 6 lessons important to our believing in the reliability of the Bible?

Memorize the following verse …

Isaiah 53:*5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.*
*He was **beaten** so we could be **whole**. He was **whipped** so we could be **healed**.*

Lesson 8: The Tanakh Canon and the Apocrypha - Worksheet

"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

What is the Tanakh?

1) An extinct fish

2) The books of the Hebrew Bible

3) A hat worn to canonize a saint

What is a canon in relationship to scriptures?

1) A military device that shoots canon balls.

2) A collection of books that make up the Bible.

3) A hat worn to canonize a saint

What principles are used to allow a book into the Tanakh (Old Testament)?

1) The book makes a claim to be from God

2) The book may have prophecy

3) Both 1 and 2

Memorize the following verse …

Hosea 4:1 *Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel*

Lesson 9: The New Testament Canon - Worksheet
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

Complete the series affirmation above …

The more confidence I have …..

What principles are used to allow a book into the New Testament?

1) Old men decided the books in some council

2) They claim to be scripture

3) They are accepted by believers

Memorize the following verse …

1Thessalonians 2:13-15 *Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as* ***the very word of God****—which, of course, it is.*

Lesson 10: The Earliest Creeds - Worksheet
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

What is a creed?

1) A small fish that whales eat

2) A statement of beliefs

3) A big dude that fought Rocky

Critics of the Bible many times contend that by the time the New Testament was written so many years had passed that it would be like playing the game of telephone. After recounting the stories year after year and in so many areas; the miracles of Jesus were probably embellished and His deity in question. But we will examine **3 facts** and **5 groups** of people that refute the critics.

Read 1st Corinthians 15:1-8

List 3 beliefs that all Christians hold in common

1)

2)

3)

Memorize the following verse…

1Cor 15: 3-4 ***I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ*** *died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was* ***buried****, and he was* ***raised*** *from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.*

Lesson 11: Manuscript Variants Provides Reliability - Worksheet
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

Read the following passages:
(1) John 8:1-11
(2) Mark 16:9-16
(3) Romans 8:1

There are over 5800 manuscripts of the Greek New Testament. Some changes exist between these various copies.

How many variants (changes) are in these manuscripts?
(a) less than 10
(b) less that 100
(c) over 1000

Do manuscript copies help textual critics determine what the original says?
(a) Yes
(b) No

Consider the following verses. Do you see any conflict between them? If so, explain.

Romans 8:1: "*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit" (KJV)*

Ephesians 2:8-9: *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

Memorize the following verse …

Romans 8:1: "*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit"*

Lesson 12: Refuting Contradictions
"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

What is a Contradiction?

Read Mark 15:36 and John 19:19

Do you consider the different wording on the sign a contradiction?

Read Matthew 27:5 and Acts 1:8

Do you consider Judas hanging and/or spilling his guts out a contradiction?

Read Proverbs 26:4

Do you consider "Don't answer a fool" and "Answer a fool" a contradiction?

Two verses to remember …

Mathew 27:5 *Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself.*
Acts 1:18 *(Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines...)*

Lesson 13: Bible Translations – Word for Word or Thought for Thought

"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

What is a translation?

What Language was the Old Testament mostly written in?

What Language was the New Testament mostly written in?

What Translation of the Bible do you mainly use?

Read John 6:7 in the following translation

King James Bible
Philip answered him, Two hundred **pennyworth** of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

New King James Version
Philip answered Him, “Two hundred **denarii** worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.”

New Living Translation
Philip replied, “Even if we **worked for months**, we wouldn’t have enough money to feed them!”

Which Translation is the most clear to you?

Lesson 14: Scientific Evidence in the Bible

"*The more confidence I have that the Bible is God's Word, the more clearly I'll be able to hear from God when I read it."*

The Bible is not a scientific text. It is more historical than science. But, that said, if the Bible speaks to an area of science, it will be accurate. We will explore just a few of the statements that have scientific application. It is also noteworthy that sometimes the Bible and science appear to disagree. The nature of science is that it is constantly changing, while the Bible does not change. Sometimes we must wait patiently for science to catch up with the Bible.

What is science?

Did Scientists always believe that the Universe had a Beginning?

Did Scientists always believe The Universe is Expanding?

Did Scientists always believe in Tectonic Plates?

Did Scientists always believe that the things we see were made up of things we can not see?

Did Scientists always believe that DNA is a coding system like a computer program?

Do most scientists still believe that random mutations to DNA account for the variety of life?

One verse to remember … (And so we end this teaching with the first verse of the Bible.)

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning (*time*), God created (*energy*) the heavens (*space*) and the earth (*matter*).*